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WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

February 2014 Adar 5774 Volume XXXVIII: Number 5 FREE

Unprecedented Jewish education event at U-M, February 23

Sarah McEwan, special to the WJN

What forms of Jewish education are optimal for America today? This question is at the heart of an upcoming public event organized by graduate students in the Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) at the University of Michigan. On February 23, members of the Ann Arbor and Metropolitan Detroit Jewish communities will have the opportunity to learn from and share thoughts with local and national Jewish education experts in the fourth annual "Communal Conversations" program. The event will be held at U-M's School of Social Work. Due to space limitations, RSVPs are strongly requested.

In preparation for the program, the students talked to Ann Arbor community members and each other about their own experiences with Jewish education. While community members and students point to a wide range of influential Jewish educational experiences, much current communal discourse identifies particular immersive educational models like summer camp, day schools, and Birthright as the surest guarantors of continued Jewish engagement. The question arises: what are the implications of intensive focus on immersive educational models as a communal "ideal" when the conditions of American society mandate that most of our lives will be lived outside of such environments? Hence the idea for this year's conversation, "360 Education Models in a Non-360° World."

For February 23, the students invited nationally recognized Jewish and Hebrew educators who have built immersive Jewish education programs (including camps, Israel trips, day schools, Hebrew charter schools, and after-school programs) as well as those who see their work as more integrated into the day-to-day lives of their students. Award-winning panelists will include: Dr. Marc Kramer (RAVSAK: The Jewish Community Day School Network), Rabbi Shira Koch Epstein (14th St. Y in New York), Amy Skopp Cooper (Camp Ramah), Rabbi David Gedzelman (The Steinhardt Foundation for Jewish Life), Rabbi Paul Yedwab (Temple Israel, West Bloomfield), and Tilly Shames (U-M Hillel). Dr. Deborah Ball, Dean of the University of Michigan's School of Education, will moderate.

Amy Skopp Cooper

Rabbi Paul Yedwab

Tilly Shames

David Gedzelman

Shira Koch Epstein

Dr. Deborah Ball

Dr. Marc Kramer

"I have really enjoyed the challenge of putting together an event of this magnitude for our community. We're fortunate that local lay and professional Jewish leaders in Ann Arbor and Metro Detroit invest so much in us. This is our chance to give back. Plans are even in the works to broadcast the event live online to Jewish educators around the country" notes Avital Ostfield, a JCLP student on the organizing committee who was raised in the Twin Cities, active at the University of Oregon Hillel as an undergraduate, and was a Teach for America Corps Member prior to coming to U-M. For Sammi Cutler, another JCLP student, planning this 2014 Communal Conversation has brought back fond memories of her years as a counselor at Camp Tamarack: "We'll measure success for this event by the great people we hope will be in the room together: parents, teachers, local Jewish communal experts, and all those interested in the future of Jewish education are welcome to come and discuss their concerns or ideas in dialogue with our inspiring panelists." The involvement of U-M Hillel and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, as well as the generous support of the Covenant Foundation and the Steinhardt Foundation, will certainly make this a memorable event for the community. An hors d'oeuvres reception will begin at 4 p.m., panel at 5 p.m.. To learn more and RSVP, visit www.tinyurl.com/jclp2014 or call 764-5392. ■

Frankel Institute and IRWG team up for symposium on gender and sexuality

Yaffa Klugerman, special to the WJN

What did the rabbis of the Talmud have to say about hermaphrodites? What was the approach of Jewish women's organizations towards abortion? What is the Muslim attitude toward marital sex?

The answers to these and many other provocative questions will be addressed on February 3 during the Symposium on Gender and Sexuality in Law and Religion taking place at the University of Michigan. The event is being co-sponsored by the U-M Jean & Samuel Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies and the Institute for Research on Women and Gender. It is also a highlight of the Frankel Institute's year-long theme focusing on gender and Jewish life.

"Gender and sexuality are expanding areas of research by scholars of both law and religion," noted Deborah Dash Moore, director of the Frankel Center and Frederick G.L. Huetwell, professor of history at U-M. "For this symposium, we've invited scholars who work on related themes—for example, the question of violence within families—and asked them to think about these issues in relation to a specific religious tradition."

Deborah Dash Moore

"The University of Michigan's Institute

Continued on page 2

All-Ensemble concert at Temple Beth Emeth

Rabbi Lisa Delson, special to the WJN

One of the central events in Temple Beth Emeth's Celebrate Annie will take place on Sunday, February 9 at 4 p.m., when six musical ensembles join in the 19th annual All-Ensemble Concert under the direction of Cantor Annie Rose. Held in the sanctuary at TBE, the concert will be followed by a gala reception in the social hall. The event is open to the public free of charge.

Nineteen years ago, TBE's ensembles consisted of the Adult Choir (now Kol Halev), a newly-formed Youth Choir and the fledgling Shir Chadash musical ensemble. Over the years, the program has grown to include nearly 200 members.

Forty students in grades 3-5 participate in TBE's Youth Choir, which is accompanied by pianist Dave Gitterman. The Youth Choir has a wide repertoire ranging from contemporary Israeli songs such as Haleluyah by Kobi Oshrat to popular songs by Debbie Friedman, as well as folk songs in Hebrew and Yiddish.

Cantor Annie Rose

TBE's Middle School Shir Chadash and High School Shir Chadash choirs sing traditional tunes in new arrangements, including both a cappella and accompanied songs. Featured songs by the High School singers (accompanied by Rosalie Koenig) include *Ani V'ata* by the late Arik Einstein, *Dodi Li* by Stephen Sher, *Lu Yehi* by Naomi Shemer and a new arrangement of the beloved song *Lo Yisa Goy*. In addition to several traditional tunes, the Middle

Continued on page 2

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Frankel Institute symposium, continued from page 1

for Research on Women and Gender promotes and supports wide-ranging studies focused on women, gender, and sexuality," added Deborah Keller-Cohen, U-M professor of linguistics and women's studies, IRWG's associate director, and a member of the Frankel Institute's steering committee. "We are pleased to partner with our colleagues at the Frankel Center in this symposium, which will explore the ways that changing gender norms have prompted religious and secular leaders to reconsider longstanding rules, laws, and customs."

Deborah Keller-Cohen

The full-day event will include sessions led by U-M professors, as well as leading scholars from Arizona State University, Dartmouth College, New York University, Villanova University, Washington University, and Wright State University. Discussions will focus on papers previously submitted for sessions on legal sex, sexual politics, and crimes of passion.

The opening panel, for example, will address the question of what constitutes legal sex in both Judaism and Islam. "Religious legal traditions have a lot to say about sex," said Dash Moore. "Certainly, current debates over what constitutes marriage—and by extension, legal sexual partners—make us aware of how attitudes and laws change."

Sessions throughout the day will explore religious accommodations and gender inequality in secular law, queer bodies in rabbinic literature, and sex and order in the Christian household. A final roundtable session promises debate over questions and broader issues raised during the symposium.

Symposium organizers intentionally chose to include religions other than Judaism in order to enhance understanding of behaviors and beliefs. "One of the advantages of a symposium that includes Judaism together with Christianity and Islam is that participants can see areas of convergence and divergence," noted Dash Moore. "We expect that this will illuminate not just one specific religious tradition, but also ones that are not explicitly discussed, because participants will be able to reflect on their analyses through the lens of the religious tradition they study."

Frankel Institute Convening Head Fellow Beth Wenger, who chairs the history department and directed the Jewish studies program at the University of Pennsylvania, added that the symposium will shed light on how gender has functioned in different historical eras. "Because gender is a social construction," she explained, "it has functioned differently in different times and places.

"Our hope," she said, "is that this symposium will spark a conversation about how different faith traditions have been shaped by and are challenging both religious and secular legal frameworks." ■

The Symposium on Gender and Sexuality in Law and Religion will take place on February 3, from 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., at Rackham Assembly Hall, 915 East Washington Street in Ann Arbor. The event is free and open to the public. Attendants are encouraged to download the recommended readings at http://goo.gl/GGaXIJ.

Sessions and presenters include:

9:30 -11 a.m. Session I: Legal Sex

"Claiming Queer Pasts: Hermaphroditos, Intersexuality, and Queer Bodies in Rabbinic Literature," presented by Max Strassfeld, Frankel Institute, University of Michigan

"Reconfiguring Muslim Marriage: Sex as a Marital Right and Duty," presented by Marion Katz, New York University

11:15 a.m-1 p.m. Session II: Sexual Politics

"Religious Freedom or a Woman's Right: The Women's League for Conservative Judaism and the Politics of Reproduction, 1970-1982," presented by Rachel Kranson, Frankel Institute, University of Michigan.

"Gendering the Religious/Secular Divide: Religious Accommodation and Gender Inequality in Secular Law," presented by Tracy Fessenden, Arizona State University

2:30-4 p.m. Session III: Crimes of Passion

"The Crime of Passion: Sex and Order in the Christian Household," presented by Ava Chamberlin, Wright State University.,

"Is Fury Better than Lust? Passion and the Law in Muslim Countries," presented by Catherine Warrick, Villanova University

4:30 p.m. Session IV: Gendered Perspectives: A Conversation

Round table with Susannah Heschel, Dartmouth College; Marie Griffith, Washington University; Karla Goldman, University of Michigan; and Michael Bonner, University of Michigan.

Music at TBE, continued from page 1

School ensemble will share several liturgical texts set to Beatles' melodies by Dave, Adam and Lizzy Gitterman, who lead and accompany the singers.

TBE's High School and Middle School Shir Chadash instrumental ensembles specialize in new arrangements of beloved songs such as *Hava Nagila* and *L'chi Lach*, as well as contemporary jazz. Under the direction of Josh Grekin, Adlai Reinhart and Elliot Polot, the bands include flute, clarinet, oboe, alto and tenor sax, trumpet, euphonium, cello, and rhythm section including guitar, bass, piano and drums.

Each year High School Shir Chadash goes on a weekend tour, performing in temples and Jewish centers. Tours have included performances in Washington D.C., Maryland, West Virginia, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois.

Kol Halev is dedicated to the performance of Jewish music of all styles, including liturgical, folk and popular music from the 16th century to the present. Accompanied by Ray McLellan, this 70-voice choir performs regularly in services at TBE, and has presented concerts exploring major styles of Jewish music in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, and English, in arrangements for a cappella voices as well as choir with piano, chamber orchestra and full orchestra. Veterans of two international tours (Romania, Bulgaria. Greece, and Argentina), Kol Halev also has performed throughout Michigan in temples and Jewish Community Centers.

The final Celebrate Annie event—a gala tribute concert—is scheduled for Sunday, April 27, at 4 p.m., at the Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College. Tickets are $100 each. For more information on events at TBE, visit templebethemeth.org. For more information on Celebrate Annie, visit celebrateannie.net. ■

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

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Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

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Cultural arts and education at the JCC

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

JCC features The Art of Scribbling class with Craig Rochkind

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will feature a new art class in February. The Art of Scribbling art class is for those who enjoy sitting around making marks on notepads and whose calendars, daily planners, and shopping lists are covered with doodles. This class is about pushing those scribbles into real expressions and imaginative drawings. Students will be guided towards a further awareness of their inner selves through a series of exercises designed to connect unconscious mark-making into thoughtful works of visual expression. By practicing to uncover hidden symbols and images in one's mind through hands, fingers and tools on paper, students will soon discover the path in which their creative energy flows. No experience is necessary.

Classes will be held Tuesday evenings, February 11, 28 and 25, from 7–8:30 p.m., at the JCC. The class cost is $30 for JCC members and $35 for non-members. The class cost includes materials.

Winter hike with Jewish Hikers of Michigan and naturalist Juliet Berger at Kensington Metro Park

The JCC and Jewish Hikers of Michigan are venturing out this winter to view scenes in nature that are unique to this time of year. The group will meet at Kensington Metro Park Visitor Center at noon with other hikers for a leisure exploration of nature in our winter wonderland. There will be carpools leaving from the JCC at 11 a.m. if participants need a ride.. Donuts and hot cocoa will be served. The cost is $5 per person.

JCC introduces a Sunday Brunch Concert Series, starting February 23

The JCC will introduce a new Sunday Brunch Series on February 23. Brunch will begin at 11 a.m. and the concert will begin at 11:30 a.m.

The first performers for this new progam will feature violinist Dr. Maria Bessmeltseva and pianist Michele Cooker. From an early age, Russian-born violinist Dr. Maria Bessmeltseva has performed in the concert halls of Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Italy, and the United States of America. Dr. Bessmeltseva's solo career has taken her from the celebrated stages of the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and Carnegie Hall, New York City to the Glinka Philharmonic Chamber Hall and St. Petersburg State Capella in St. Petersburg, Russia. In addition to her live performances, Dr. Bessmeltseva has also appeared on local TV and radio stations in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Rutland, Vermont, and South Hadley, Massachusetts.

Dr. Maria Bessmeltseva

Michele Cooker, is a concert pianist and a piano teacher in Ann Arbor. She collaborates with members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and numerous violinists throughout the Midwest. Cooker has performed on concert series and participated in festivals in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. She has appeared on PBS and has recorded several programs broadcast live for WFMT radio in Chicago and the CBC in Canada.

Everyone welcome to Falafel and Film, February 8

Enjoy the company of film lovers for a hearty falafel dinner and the Israeli film, *The Gatekeepers* on Saturday, February 9 at 7 p.m. at the JCC. Following the film, there will be a discussion led by David Shtulman.

The Gatekeepers is a 2012 documentary film by director Dror Moreh that tells the story of the Israeli internal security service, Shin Bet, from the perspective of six of its former heads. The film combines in-depth interviews, archival footage, and computer animation to recount the role that the group played in Israel's security from the Six-Day War to the present. The film was nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 85th Academy Awards.

The cost is $10 for JCC members and $15 for non-members.

JCC to host reception for The Art of Milli Levin exhibit

The JCC will feature a reception for The Art of Milli Levin art exhibit on Saturday, February 15, at 7 p.m., in the JCC's Amster Gallery.

Milli Levin was born in 1917 in Detroit and died in 2010. She produced many beautiful works over the years. Her son Dan Levin and daughter-in-law Aviva Dorfman are presenting her art at the JCC through February in the Newman Lounge and Amster Gallery. The galleries are open during regular business hours of the JCC. Guests who plan to attend the reception are asked to RSVP to the JCC front desk at 971-0990.

Washtenaw Community College Emeritus Class with Dr. Liz Fried

The JCC will host the Washtenaw Community College Emeritus class, Development of the Holidays during the First and Second Temple Periods with Dr. Liz Fried, on Tuesdays, February 4, 11, 18 and March 4, 11, 18, and 25, from 10 a.m.–noon. The class is free for those age 65+. The class can be registered through WCC or on the first day of class with Dr. Fried. ■

To register for all JCC adults activities, contact the JCC front desk at 971-0990. For more information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org.

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JFS partners for success

Cindy Klein, special to the WJN

Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines a "partner" as "being related to a larger whole," and "one associated with another in an action." It defines "collaboration" as "to cooperate with an agency with which one is not immediately connected; working jointly."

These terms are used many times each day by Jewish Family Services (JFS) as they focus on establishing new programs and services; as well as caring for the older adults in the community and their families. It has become increasingly more evident to social service and nonprofit agencies in Washtenaw County that no one can work alone in these times. Caring for the residents of the community requires collaborating and partnering with others; perhaps with agencies that have never been partnered with before

In the last year, JFS has developed a number of new relationships, and strengthened old familiar ones along the way, in order to better serve the community and achieve its goals. Last fall, Diane Fenske, JFS Older Adult Services Coordinator met Breanne Stuart, director of HomeWatch CareGivers Home Care of Ann Arbor. During their first visit, Stuart and Fenske realized they both have a passion for education and training. Out of this conversation, the "Coffee and CE's" series was born. "C&C" offers continuing education credits on timely topics, for social workers, nurses and interested community members. They also partner with the Jewish Community Center (JCC), who has provided meeting space for "C&C". Attendance has doubled for this endeavor in just six months. JFS could not have created this program without HomeWatch and the generosity and energy of its director.

Last summer JFS developed a partnership with the Pittsfield Township Senior Center, and their senior program developer, Jennifer Todd. As a result, every month an older adult social worker holds "Confidential Conversations" at the Senior Center, at which time a member can stop by for information, referrals, to discuss a challenging issue, etc. This opportunity benefits the members of the senior center, and assists the community to understand what a social services agency such as JFS can do for them. For many, this is their first contact with a professional social worker. Some of the members have become clients of JFS as a result of their contacts.

In June, JFS collaborated with the JCC to provide an evening of education about aging issues. Insurance agent Walt Garff spoke about long term care insurance; Don Ottomeyer, president of Interim Home Health Care and Breanne Stuart of HomeWatch Caregivers, informed the audience about private duty home care; and Justine Bykowski of the UMHS Housing Bureau for Seniors shared information about older adult residential options in Washtenaw County. In total, six agencies came together to offer education and support to interested individuals.

Tanum Olilla is the Marketing and Sales Manager of Brookdale Place of Ann Arbor, an assisted living residential community. They are clients of JFS for the ElderLink program, for counseling, and general consultation. A recent brainstorming session generated ideas for new events to benefit Brookdale residents; Tanum feels that JFS and Brookdale Place are "partners for success, for all of us!"

JFS older adult social workers partner with senior residential communities to offer mental health counseling, as well as emotional support and education to older adult residents, who may be unable to see a social worker in an office setting. A 76-year old woman from Ypsilanti without family support was lovingly cared for until her death by a collaboration of individuals who came together from JFS, Neighborhood Family Health Clinic in Ypsilanti, Arbor Hospice, Evangelical Home–Saline, University of Michigan Prosthetics and Orthotics, Area Agency on Aging 1-B, and Michigan Heart. Seemingly unrelated agencies coming together for a common purpose—one older adult woman they all cared about.

One could look at the numerous activities, sites, initiatives and individuals that JFS involves itself with all over Washtenaw County, and ask "why?" The answer goes back to the definitions "being related to a larger whole" and "working jointly with an agency with which one is not immediately connected." In these unpredictable times, with the needs of older adult community members on the rise, JFS's goals of serving a diverse population; educating the community; offering solutions to those in need; and providing comfort, care and respect, would not be achieved without those, JFS collaborates and partners with, and to whom we are truly grateful. ■

JFS
Jewish Family Services
of Washtenaw County

Older Adult programs at the JCC

Rachel Hoffenblum, special to the WJN

Green Things Farmers to speak at JCC

Local farmers Jill and Nate Lada of Green Things Farm will be visiting the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's adult program on Thursday, February 6, from 1–2 p.m. Although a relatively new farm, Green Things Farm has already has already proved popular at various farmers markets around Ann Arbor, including Kerrytown and St. Joseph Mercy. Green Things Farm also operates a Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA) where members buy shares of the farm and receive a percentage of the harvest. The Ladas will discuss the history of their farm, as well as how a CSA operates. For more information about Green Things Farm, visit their website at http://greenthingsfarm.com/.

Anne Lawrence to give talk about clothesline history

Anne Lawrence, clothesline historian and hobbyist, has been clotheslines memorabilia collector for years. The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's adult program is excited to welcome Lawrence on Thursday, February 27 at 1 p.m. to discuss her unique hobby in a talk entitled, "The Love, Lure, and Lore of The Clothesline." Hang out on your lunch break and learn the history, nostalgia, and stories surrounding laundry habits and how history repeats itself with eco-conscious living. ■

For more information about this and other JCC adult programs, contact Rachael Hoffenblum at 971-0990 or rachaelhoffenblum@jccfed.org.

JCC Member Appreciation Party—Tie/Tye/Thai

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will host a member appreciation party on Sunday February 9, from 4:30–6 p.m., with dinner, music and crafts. All JCC members are invited to the first ever Tie, Tye, Thai event. Kol Kavod, Hillel's a Capella group, will provide music to get things started, followed by an authentic Thai dinner. Tie-dying will be set up to enhance items brought in by participants throughout the afternoon. To learn more about each other everyone is asked to wear a tie that has special meaning to show off and talk about.

This event is open to members of all ages and everyone is encouraged to participate in whatever part of the program speaks to them. The event is free to current JCC members and memberships will be available at the door for those who are not yet members. Members are also encouraged to bring a friend for $5 per person. For more information, contact Noreen DeYoung, JCC program director, at noreendeyoung@jccfed.org. ■

Shalom Hartman Institute course presented at BIC

Rabbi Kim Blumenthal, special to the WJN

Beth Israel Congregation will offer the Shalom Hartman Institute course "Peoplehood and Its Role and Significance in Jewish Life." The idea of Jewish Peoplehood—its complex origins, its implications and how it might be sustained—is an issue of wide concern in the Jewish community today. The concept of a "Jewish collective" appears at odds with a contemporary ethos of intense individualism. Anxiety about a dwindling sense of Peoplehood is increasingly defining the agenda for Israeli agencies and Jewish institutions and federations worldwide. The meanings and implications of Jewish Peoplehood have a direct impact on nearly all of the central questions and tensions of Judaism and modern life.

The faculty of the Shalom Hartman Institute has developed a timely and sophisticated curriculum to address to questions of Jewish Peoplehood. Through lectures that are presented on DVD, senior Hartman faculty engage in broad and deep analysis of some of the many tensions that Peoplehood raises, both in classical Jewish tradition and in contemporary Jewish thought and life.

This nine-session course will meet Tuesdays at 8 p.m., beginning on March 4. Rabbi Robert Dobrusin and Rabbi Kim Blumenthal will facilitate text study and discussion to enhance the lectures and allow participants to fully engage with the topic. There is a course fee of $36 per person. To register for this course, call 665-9897 by February 21. ■

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Education

JLI offers "To Be a Jew in the Free World"

Aharon Josevitz, special to the WJN

A new six-week course, taught by Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, will begin Monday, February 10, at The Chabad House, and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. To register, visit the JLI web site at: www.MYJLI.com or call 995-3276 x2.

When the "Age of Faith" gave way to the Age of Reason and the modern world was launched, the Jewish people were profoundly affected. With the emergence of the United States and the enshrinement of religious freedom as a fundamental right of all citizens, the nature of Jewish life in the Diaspora entered a radically new era.

What does freedom mean in Jewish life? In the shtetl, Jews believed that God's immutable laws governed all of life. How did the encounter with modernity affect the Jews' understanding of identity and the relevance of Jewish law? Does a full Jewish life require its adherents to turn their back on modern day liberties and try to survive in isolation? These questions are as important to answer today as they were in previous generations.

The latest sociological survey of American Jewry suggests that many Jews are trying to solve this conundrum by limiting the claims that Jewish identity makes on their lives. Yet, in some quarters, the freedom of the age has meant a freedom to discover profound meaning in a life that includes full commitment to Jewish values and teachings. Beyond the apparent conflict, is there a possibility that the new age and an ancient tradition actually bring out the best in each other? To Be a Jew in the Free World explores these issues through the prism of six historical events and phenomena. What are the challenges of this new world and what are its unique opportunities? By showing how key issues came to the fore in the past and how they were answered, and by asking questions of one's own and considering what one might learn from one's experience, power points will discover what it means to be a Jew in a free world. ■

Course overview

What was it like for our ancestors to say goodbye to the shtetl, to set out to discover new lives for themselves, along with all of the liberties the free world had to offer? At the dawn of the enlightenment, how did our parents adapt their Judaism to the developments of a modern age? And what can we learn from their struggles to connect deeply with our own Jewish identities?

This new course will give you the opportunity to make sense of your personal Jewishness; it will help you overcome perceived incompatibilities between Judaism and modern society; and it will provide you with the clarity and conviction to pass on a legacy of Jewish pride to the next generation.

Lesson Outline:

Once a Jew, Forever a Jew

Napoleon Bonaparte promised freedom from discrimination. The price? Allegiance to him and to France. Why are alternative allegiances a cause of concern for Jews? Just how deep does our Jewish identity run? And why is it that no matter what you do, you'll always be a Jew?

Freedom for All

In 1790, after leading a revolution in the name of liberty, George Washington affirmed the divine and inviolable freedoms of America's tiny Jewish community. What is freedom? Is it indeed liberating to do as we please? Perhaps freedom is about something much deeper, more meaningful, and fulfilling!

Judaism of our Choosing

The failed attempt to establish a chief rabbi in New York in the 1890s demonstrated the weakness of the modern Jewish community structure. This lesson explores how the lack of top-down organization in the Jewish community and new-world individualism combine to challenge and empower individuals to choose to participate in Jewish life.

The Jewish Vote

In 1862, General Ulysses S. Grant signed an order expelling all Jews from the area under his command. This became a defining issue in his 1868 presidential campaign. Are Jews obliged to vote as Jews? Can our concerns as Jews conflict with our duties to our Diaspora home? Where should our first allegiance lie?

Antisemitism-Free Jewish Identity

In contemporary times, the power of antisemitism to form a bulwark against assimilation has declined. We face a paradox–a desire for complete acceptance of Jews within society, while at the same time hoping that younger Jews and coming generations do not choose to assimilate and instead commit to living a Jewish life. How is this to be accomplished?

Purpose for All Mankind

In 1655, Menashe ben Israel shared a dream of redemption, moving Oliver Cromwell to readmit Jews to England. What is our role as Jews to inspire the world with a vision of universal peace and goodness? This lesson moves beyond mere Jewish continuity, and presents the idealistic vision that Judaism has for all humanity.

Israel

More farms planned for Golan Heights

Posted on January 13, 2014 by JNS.org.

The Israeli cabinet has approved a plan by the agricultural ministry to establish 750 new farming estates on 30,000 dunams (7,400 acres) of land in the Golan Heights region.

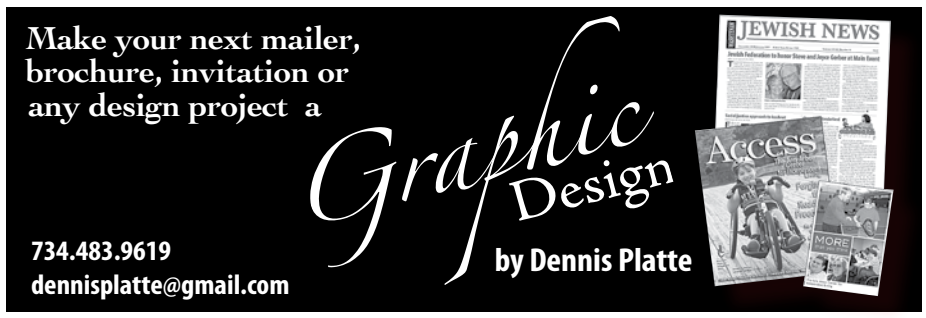
The proposal includes a NIS 375 million ($108 million) investment in agricultural training, upgrading the water systems and clearing mines from the region.

"The Golan residents rely heavily on agriculture as a source of income. The decision came in an effort to expand the employment opportunities and create anchors that reinforces the [Golan Heights community]," Israeli Agriculture Minister Yair Shamir said on his Facebook page.

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

The Golan Heights.

Located in northern Israel, the Golan Heights was originally captured from Syria during the 1967 Six Day War. In 1981, Israel annexed the territory and applied Israeli law to the region, a move that the international community does not recognize. The region contains some of Israel's richest farmland and is famous for its beautiful mountainous landscape and wine production.



Religious leadership: balancing power and humility.

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

A few months ago, I gave a sermon regarding the power exercised by religious leaders and how that power can be a negative factor leading to disrespect for organized religion. We see it all too often: religious leaders speak with what they identify as divine authority in an effort to increase their wealth or power or to incite hatred or suspicion of others. The noblest strivings of religious faith and spiritual teaching are undermined by those who use their positions of authority to increase personal fame or power or to preach hatred.

My sermon was based on a commentary on the Torah portion of the week, but I had a specific reason to address that particular subject. My intent that morning was to speak of my admiration and respect for Pope Francis, who in his first few months in office had sought to move the Catholic Church away from the trappings of power to serve its people and the world.

Many others in religious communities throughout the world, including many Jewish leaders, have also showered praise upon Pope Francis. His selection as *Time Magazine's* Person of the Year shows how he has inspired so many.

Before I go any further, let me quickly add that I have many disagreements with the position of the Catholic Church on social issues, such as the right to abortion, recognition of homosexual relationships through same sex marriage, and the way in which the Church has addressed the horrendous sex abuse scandals. I do not suspect that Pope Francis will immediately, or even over time, change those positions in a way which I would agree with. Still, I acknowledge what he has done to this point to signal some changes in the perspective of the Church.

But, my respect for him is mainly based on his way of dealing with this question of the power of a religious leader. He reaches out to the needy, shows concern for them and advocates policies which address their needs. He concerns himself with the real problems of real people, refuses many of the perks that other popes have accepted without question, and has shown a personal, human touch with a smile or a hug that brings hope to so many. I can't help but smile when I see him or hear the stories told about him. I really have become, as I said from the *bima*, a "fan" of his.

I hope that the attention and respect that Pope Francis is receiving throughout the world will help people remember what it is that God wants from us: to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Recently, Pope Francis announced that he will be traveling to the Middle East and will visit Jerusalem, as well as other locations in Israel and in the West Bank. He will do so with a background of speaking and teaching a respect for Jews and for Judaism. I look forward to following that visit closely and hope he will bring a spirit of reconciliation to a land so desperately in need of healing.

There are many leaders in the Jewish community who act as Pope Francis does and the same can certainly be said for leaders in other faith communities. Those who abuse power and amass wealth and speak words of superiority and hatred grab the headlines, while others who represent nobler ideals work behind the scenes or out of the spotlight.

I hope that the attention and respect that Pope Francis is receiving throughout the world will help people remember what it is that God wants from us: to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. ■

Straddling the fence?

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

This month we are going to do something a bit different. Rather than comment on the Parsha of the week, we will review the Haftorah of the *Parsha Ki Tisa*. This is fitting, as both readings discuss incidents of our ancestors worshipping idols. The Torah portion discusses the incident of the golden calf and the Haftorah addresses the time of Elijah the prophet when the Jewish people were again caught in the throes of idol worship – this time worshiping the Ba'al. Elijah the prophet was working very hard to pull the Jewish people away from the Ba'al and get them to turn toward the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This year, on Shabbat February 15, we will be reading the portion of *Ki Tisa* followed by the Haftorah regarding Elijah.

In the Haftorah we read the dialogue Elijah the prophet had with the prophets of Ba'al regarding who is the true God. At one point Elijah the prophet asks them how much longer they are going to be straddling the fence. He says, either accept God as the true God and consequently worship Him – or accept Ba'al as the true God and follow after him. Elijah seems to be saying that it is worse to straddle the fence in indecision or compromise than to worship idols with one's full sincerity. Why would Elijah the prophet – a holy man who heard the word of God - maintain such a position? Doesn't it intuitively seem that it would be better to serve God partially and idols partially rather than to serve idols wholeheartedly? How can he tell a Jew that picking one or the other is better than straddling the fence?

To answer this question we have to understand the difference in the basic psychology of those who "straddle the fence" and those who take a stand one way or the other. To do this we first have to explain the origins of idol worship.

This is why the prophet says it is important that one not straddle the fence. When one doesn't straddle the fence there is a greater potential to find God. Hopefully, if one is honest about it, they will find the truth in Torah.

Maimonides explains that idolatry began as a misconception people made concerning the worshipping of the stars, sun and moon and other powers besides God alone. Some people came to the incorrect conclusion that since God made the constellations, the stars, the sun, the moon and other heavenly bodies, God's power came through them into our world. Therefore it is an obligation and responsibility for us to respect and, even further, worship them. By worshipping them we will be able to reap blessings from them and receive more of the flow of God's energy from them. So worshipping idols stems from our desire to get more of God's countenance to shine upon us. The essential error in this is the perception that God's power comes from these objects and that the objects have the freewill to decide upon whom the blessings will flow in this world. But this perception developed and, in their desire to gain favorable life force and energy flow from God, people came to worship these heavenly bodies as sources rather than channels. So, according to Maimonides, that is how idolatry began.

Now let us see why Elijah the prophet treats committed idol worshippers better than those who worship God part-time and other gods the rest of the time (fence straddlers). The one that worships idols has the mental attitude of certainty of his convictions. At that point in time, he believes (albeit mistakenly) in his god. However, he has the potential to realize the error of his conclusion regarding who God is, do *teshuva* (repentence), and turn the strength of his convictions to worshipping the God of our matriarchs and patriarchs. By contrast, the person straddling the fence is not as likely to see the error of his ways. He believes that he has all the bases covered. He believes he is in the good graces of the powers on both sides of the fence. There is a contemporary phrase in common usage, " It's all good", that implies there is no need to make a judgment regarding right and wrong – either way is equally fine. So even though a person believes in an idol (and not in God), they have the merit of making a commitment to the process of believing in a power greater than themself. Even if the object of that belief is not true, they have at least overcome their sense of self-importance and abnegated their ego to what they have come to realize is a force greater than they are. One day when they discover that this god is not the true God, it is not that difficult to change over because the process of devotion is already in place. But the fence straddler is not really looking for the truth. They are looking for convenience and security. They want to be accepted socially across a broad spectrum of society. This person does not have the process of devotion, commitment and ego abnegation in place. One person cannot serve two masters. When a fence straddler is with believers they are a believer and when with the idolaters or non-believers they are one of them as well—so we don't know their true position. Consequently, they can have a harmful effect not only on themselves but also on the people around them. By holding themselves out as a believer in God they are misleading the uncommitted or unlearned to believe that straddling the fence is a way worthy of being followed – therefore making idol worship acceptable.

This is why Elijah the prophet tells the fence straddlers that their position is even worse than those that worship Ba'al. At least the Ba'al worshippers are seeking the truth. They are existentially curious. On the other hand, the fence-straddlers try to justify their behaviors by using whatever philosophical or religious tenet to suit their particular situation at a particular time. This perspective is much more difficult to change to return to a truth – seeking path toward God.

This is why the prophet says it is important that one not straddle the fence. When one doesn't straddle the fence there is a greater potential to find God. Hopefully, if one is honest about it, they will find the truth in Torah. ■

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The math is simple, from Older Adult Services to In-home Counseling, the care JFS provides is like having extended family.

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Additionally, her social worker discovered that Sarah was not getting proper nutrition. Meals on Wheels was set-up. Also, a volunteer now regularly helps with grocery shopping and bringing items from the JFS food pantry to Sarah.

JFS Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

The Herb Amster Center — A Division of Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

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CARF — Case Management/Services Coordination: Psychosocial Rehabilitation Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health Employee Development Services

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This month at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

World Wide Wrap

Sunday, February 2, 9:30 a.m.

The Beth Israel Men's Club sponsors locally the "World Wide Wrap." This program is a project of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs that encourages Jews around the world to put on *tefillin* and pray together. Beth Israel will provide extra sets of *tefillin* and experienced *tefillin* teachers will be available to assist anyone who would like to participate in this important mitzvah.

Beth Israel is known for its post service Polar Bear Tefillin Photo which captures all the tefillin clad participants in the out-of-doors, regardless of the weather.

Following the Shaharit service, participants will enjoy a brunch of bagels, lox, and coffee. The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs is an organization of approximately 270 Conservative/Masorti Jewish men's groups consisting of 25,000 individuals across North America and the world. The FJMC involves Jewish men in Jewish life by building and strengthening Men's Clubs in the Conservative/Masorti Movement.

Lunch and Laugh

February 5, 12, 19, 26, noon–1:15 p.m.
Lunch and Laugh Prime Time Edition—February 11, 8–9 p.m.

Each year, during the month of Adar, traditionally the "happiest month of the year," Lunch and Learn becomes "Lunch and Laugh". As an antidote to the cold, dark winter days, these sessions are dedicated to humor. They will include the annual tribute to Allan Sherman, some humorous selections from traditional Jewish texts, an opportunity for participants to share their personal humorous experiences and some more surprises.

Realizing that not everyone can attend a session on Wednesday afternoon, a Lunch and Laugh: Prime Time Edition will take place on one Tuesday evening. This evening will include some favorites from the Wednesday sessions.

This entire series is presented by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin.

Friday Night Lights

February 7, 6 p.m.

The evening begins with a family friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6 pm, followed by a dairy dinner. This month's Friday Night Lights Shabbat dinner will include lasagna, macaroni and cheese, and a salad bar. The cost of dinner for ages 4 and above is $8. Children ages 3 and under attend for no charge. This event is sure to chase away the February chill as families gather to celebrate a warm Shabbat together.

Henry Gershowitz Memorial Participatory Shabbat

Saturday, February 8, 9:30 a.m.

Volunteers from the congregation lead every part of the service on this Shabbat which honors the memory of Beth Israel's past-president, Henry Gershowitz. Henry was not only a pillar of the congregation, he was also a regular at Shabbat Services, often leading the early morning *Pesukei D'zimrah,* and he also served as the Wednesday night minyan captain. Henry encouraged new members to participate in leading the Saturday service which has inspired Beth Israel Men's Club and Women's League to honor him with this annual event. The service is followed by kiddush.

For more information or to sign up, contact Haran Rashes at haran@umich.edu or 660-9283, Online sign-up is available on Beth Israel's website, www.bethisrael-aa.org. See Events Sign-up.

Sephardic Shabbat Dinner and Story Cirde

February 28, 7 p.m.

Men's Club and Women's League volunteers will cook up a delicious dinner of Moroccan chicken, couscous and roasted vegetables, with chicken strips for the kids. After dinner there will be an opportunity for participants to share their special Jewish stories and memories. The dinner is preceded by a Friday evening service at 6 p.m.

Dinner is $18/person, payable in advance at the Beth Israel office. For more information, contact Dennie Carbeck at dencarb@comcast.net or Haran Rashes at haran@umich.edu.

Tot Shabbat

Saturdays, February 8 and 22, 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning program for toddlers and preschoolers along with their families. Tot Shabbat features singing, stories, and prayers to celebrate Shabbat. It also includes the mysterious "Shabbat Box," a Torah procession with stuffed toy torahs, and a Kiddush for tots.

The experienced leaders of Tot Shabbat are Peretz Hirshbein on the second Saturday and Jacob Kander on the fourth Saturday of the month. Peretz Hirshbein is the Early Childhood director at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and the current vice president for programs on the Beth Israel board of directors. Jacob Kander is Beth Israel's program director and the father of a toddler.

Tot Shabbat meets at Beth Israel downstairs in room 15. Following services child-size tables are set out for Tot Shabbat kids and their families are always invited to stay to enjoy a Kiddush lunch with the rest of the congregation.

Mini-Minyan

Saturday, February 8, 11:15 a.m.

At Mini Minyan kids celebrate Shabbat with songs and stories while also learning prayers and discovering more about Shabbat and other Jewish holidays through discussions, games, and activities. The program is facilitated by Jacob Kander. All parents are welcome to join in this service along with their children. Mini Minyan meets at Beth Israel on the second Saturday of the month downstairs in room 16. ■

February activities at Temple Beth Emeth

SooJi Minn, special to the WJN

Celebrate Annie: 19th Annual All-Ensemble Concert

Sunday, February 9, 4 p.m.
TBE Sanctuary

Six of TBE's musical ensembles will perform in the 19th annual All-Ensemble Concert under the direction of Cantor Annie Rose. The concert will be followed by a gala reception in the social hall. The event is open to the public free of charge.

Spirituality Book Club

Tuesday, February 18, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 20, noon

This month the Spirituality Book Club will read *Devotion: A Memoir* (P.S.), by Dani Shapiro. Dani Shapiro's newest memoir, a mid-life exploration of spirituality, begins with her son's difficult questions about God, mortality and the afterlife, and her realization that her answers are quite lacking. Determined to find more satisfying answers, she seeks out the help of a yogi, a Buddhist and a rabbi, and comes away with an insightful, penetrating memoir. The community is welcome to these book club sessions led by Cantor Annie Rose.

Lunch and Learn: Thawing by Passover – A Jewish philosophy of liberation

Every Friday, 2:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Join Rabbi Levy weekly for a rousing, informal conversation. He provides the text and discussion topics. Participants should bring their own brown bag lunch. This program is free and open to the community.

Evenings in the Library

Sunday, February 23, 6-7:30 p.m.

The TBE library is hosting a series of monthly informal gatherings with authors making presentations about their books with plenty of time for questions and discussion. For more information, contact Clare Kinberg, ckinberg@gmail.com.

Women's Torah Study

Wednesday, February 12, Monday, February 24, 7–8:30 p.m.

Join the Cantor Annie Rose and other women of Temple Beth Emeth for two evenings a month in the study of the Torah portion for the week. This group uses the WRJ Women's Torah Commentary and has a great time together each time. For questions, contact Cantor Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com

Men's Torah Study

Mondays, February 3 and 17, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

The Temple Beth Emeth Brotherhood hosts a bi-monthly Torah study for men only. The conversation is always lively and there are always refreshments. For more information, contact Roger Stutesman at rgstutesman@scbglobal.net.

Shabbat Torah Study

Every Saturday in the TBE Chapel , 8:50-9:50 am

Rabbi Levy offers a Torah study session each Shabbat. No prior experience in Torah study is necessary, just bring an open mind. Everyone is welcome to attend these sessions. There is also an opportunity to say Kaddish at 10 a.m. when there is no bar or bat mitzvah in the sanctuary.

TNT – Torah on Tap Brunch

Sunday, February 23, 10 a.m.–noon
Home of Alex Wood

Join other 20s and 30s in a morning of fun and Jewish learning. The topic for this session is about Jewish ideas of breakfast and breaking a fast. Questions and RSVP to Rabbi Delson, ldelson@templebethemeth.org.

Shalom Gever Martial Arts

Weekly, Mondays and Wednesdays
TBE Social Hall
4:30-5:15 p.m. (Grades K-2)
5:30-6:15 p.m. (Grades 3-5)
6:15- 7 p.m. (Grades 3-5)
7:15-8 p.m. (Grades 6-9 & 10-12)

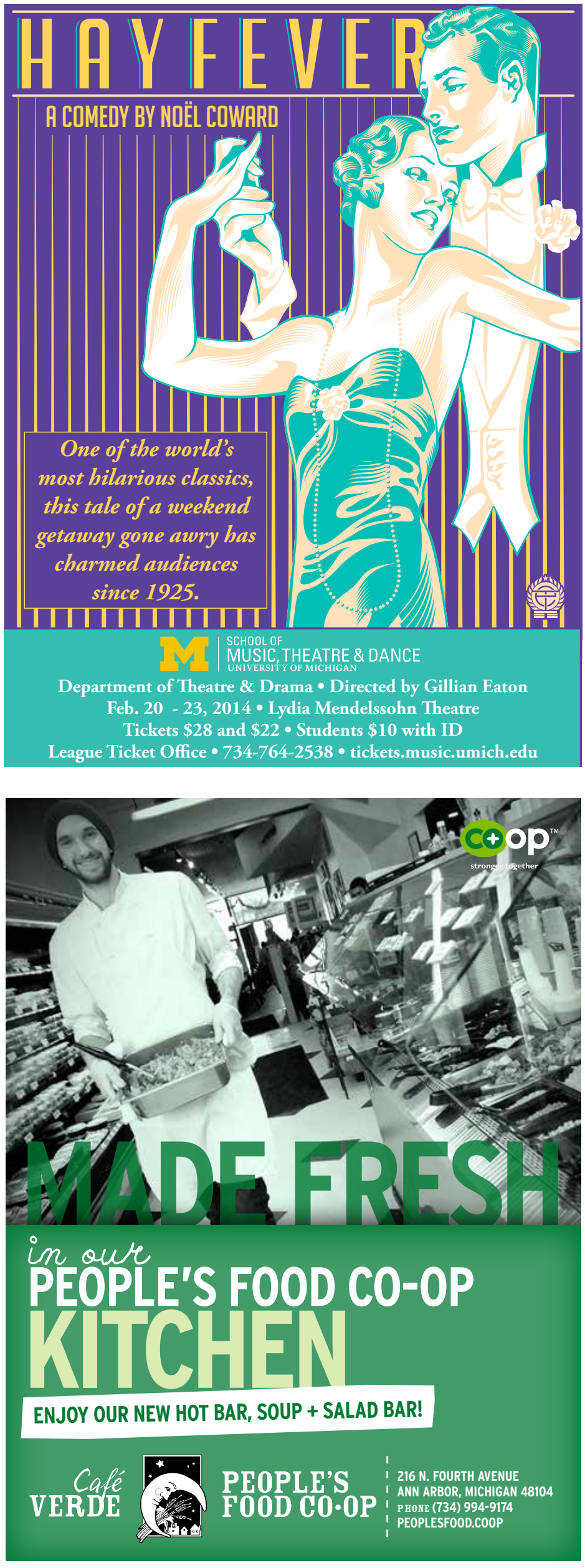
Karate is for all seasons. Get some exercise, learn self discipline, increase self-knowledge, and most of all, have fun! Sessions are taught by Rabbi Peter Gluck. Parents are welcome. Six-class introductory offer. To enroll, contact info@ShalomGever.org or SooJi Min at 665-4744.

Brotherhood Blood Drive

Saturday, February 1, 8:45 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

The TBE Brotherhood will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive in the TBE Social Hall. Everyone is encouraged to participate. ■

Families and friends got to meet bats from around the world as the Jewish Cultural Society celebrated Tu B'Shevat in a most unique way with the Organization for Bat Conservation. Presenter, Christina Funk, brought several rescued species and spoke about how important trees are to these creatures. Those who attended enjoyed a wonderful photo presentation and live bats as Christina talked about bat lifespans, habitats, and what can be done to protect these creatures that bear a significant role in the ecosystem.



Combining curriculum and community

by Hadar Dohn

There is an age-old Jewish debate: Is it more important to focus on *keva* (routine) or *kavana* (intention). Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor answers this question with BOTH and embraces the intertwining of *keva* and *kavana.* Both have value in teaching and learning. We want the understanding to become routine to help students internalize their learning, yet we want students' thinking to reflect deep meaning and purpose. At HDS, while both routine and intention are woven into lessons, they are also the foundation for assemblies. One way students at HDS encounter this experience is through our many performances and celebrations.

Fifth grade Strings

First grade class performs at Rosh Chodesh

Monthly Rosh Chodesh (Jewish new month) celebrations merge together a planned, repetitive communal practice along with a personal experience. That everyone gathers for Rosh Chodesh is no coincidence. It is here, in the most basic of Jewish concepts, the calendar, that we secure ourselves as part of the long line of Jewish traditions. From the calendar to songs, to highlighting the learning in Hebrew classes, our community grows closer. Each member enriches our community and as the learning becomes routine, our intentionality becomes sharper. As the students gain group experiences and confidence, their own self—assurance grows. With the support of the group they overcome possible nervousness and experience personal triumph. They are able to take this communal experience and carry it back into the classroom.

Take, for example, last month's Winter Music Festival celebration. This celebration came about as a result of careful planning and practice. Think about the aspects of mastering a song for a performance: one must read and memorize the lyrics, understand the music, and integrate the skills. Then there's a matter of singing while listening to others and paying attention to the teacher who is conducting. When playing an instrument, especially a new one, one has to look at the notes, the teacher, the hands, and the instrument. One must listen to his or her fellow musicians and make sure that they are all in sync. We need to practice going on and off the stage, while imagining the audience in the front. Again, as with Rosh Chodesh, our students gained personal skills by sharing in the group experience.

When we gather for our assemblies we extend our curriculum beyond the classroom. Every element is meant to both solidify the learning happening in the classroom and anchor us to our Jewish heritage. We emphasize the soft skills that we expect our graduates to learn, such as the ability to face an audience or show gratitude and appreciation for others. We watch the confidence of our gansters grow monthly and our entire community revels in their success. With their monthly songs, we know that as graduates, they will exhibit a confidence that only comes from direct experience. Routine and practice along with intention and reflection-HDS's meaningful gatherings showcase the thoughtfulness of its curriculum.

These gatherings make me appreciate the community's journey through the Day School. I cherish our current families; feel tremendous gratitude for those who came before, and I am excited about those yet to begin. ■

For more information about HDS, email admissions@hdsaa.org to schedule a personal tour, or join us on one of these events:

Prospective Parent Evening (adults only): Wednesday, January 15, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A Taste of Gan (Kindergarten) (for preschoolers and their families): Sunday, February 2, 10–11 a.m.

Hadar Dohn is head of school at HDS.

Nahalal Delegation to Ann Arbor a huge success

Rabbi Ilana Baden, special to the WJN

The convergence of Thanksgiving and Chanukah was a happy coincidence for many people in the American Jewish community, but for the 10th graders of Ann Arbor, the "Thanksgivukah" holiday held an extra bonus. This year, the students who had participated in the Ann Arbor-Nahalal Student Exchange program were able to welcome their friends from Israel for a very special and festive experience.

The Student Exchange participants had a great time at the final slumber party at the Pinsky's home

The Jewish Federation's Ann Arbor-Nahalal Student Exchange program is a two-part exchange in which 9th grade students from Ann Arbor spend a week in February in Moshav Nahalal. The following school year, those students host their Israeli counterparts for a visit to Ann Arbor. The Student Exchange, which was established in 2010, is funded by the Federation's Partnership2Gether Community-to-Community allocation. The Ann Arbor-Nahalal Partnership is an integral part of the Michigan-Central Galilee Partnership2Gether program led by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

On Thursday, November 28, six Israeli teens from Nahalal, Israel, landed in Detroit with their two adult chaperones, Yair Hammer (who is the Partnership Chairperson in Nahalal) and his wife, Rabbi Reut Hammer. The delegation was greeted by the Thanksgiving host families from Ann Arbor. The visitors were treated to a traditional Thanksgiving meal and gatherings that day. For the rest of the weekend, the Israelis joined their American friends in such activities as "Black Friday" shopping trips, a special Shabbat/Chanukah service at Temple Beth Emeth, watching the UM-OSU game (in the comfort of a living room with lots of snacks), and laser tag.

The official Student Exchange visit began Sunday, December 1, with a pot-luck dinner. Old friends reunited with one another and the 22 Ann Arbor teens who had been to Nahalal last February eagerly introduced their Israeli pals to their family members who participated in the evening's festivities.

It was important to the Ann Arbor students that their Israeli counterparts be able to experience what it is like living in Ann Arbor as a Jewish American. The visit was comprised of activities that addressed Jewish life, cultural life, academic life, and general teen-age life.

The Student Exchange participants attended a UM hockey game

In terms of experiencing Jewish life, the group visited such places as the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, Hebrew Day School, and the JCC Early Childhood Center. They visited Temple Beth Emeth and Keshet, which is a Hebrew language program for local teens. They also spent time at the Holocaust Memorial Center, West Bloomfield JCC, and Temple Israel. Furthermore, they got a glimpse of what it is like to be a Jewish college student during their time at the U-M Hillel and by speaking with members of the Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority. In addition to this, the group learned about the importance of mitzvot and social action while helping the teens of Beth Israel Congregation volunteer at Alpha House. Perhaps the Jewish highlight of the trip, however, was when they were honored by being asked to light the *chanukiyah* at the Ann Arbor JCC's One Candle for Tzedakah Chanukah party.

For culture, the delegation toured the Ford Rouge Factory and visited the Henry Ford Museum. The students also toured Zingerman's Bakehouse and ate at Zingerman's Deli, Benny's Family Dining, and Gourmet Garden. In addition, they enjoyed tours of the University of Michigan stadium, and attended a hockey game at Yost Arena.

The students spent significant time at various local high schools. They visited classes and participated in activities with friends at Pioneer, Community, Skyline, and Huron High Schools. The group also toured the Neutral Zone in downtown Ann Arbor and spent an afternoon "hanging out" with teens at that facility.

In addition to these experiences, the teens also enjoyed some pure fun time. They had a great time bowling at Colonial Lanes and had a blast at the Sky Zone trampoline park in Canton. They also enjoyed their shopping excursions at the mall and bonded over painting "The Rock" at the corner of Washtenaw Avenue and Hill Street. The best, however, was when they were able to be together at the Pinsky residence for a Saturday Night Slumber Party.

In reflecting on the Student Exchange program, Ann Arbor participant Avishag Eliav commented, "This visit was incredible. It was so great to get to experience a completely new world in our trip to Nahalal and then be able to return the favor and introduce a whole new world to our close Israeli friends when they came here. I learned so much about cultural differences but more importantly about myself and my new beloved home in Israel."

The next Student Exchange visit will take place in just a few weeks. On February 13, a new group of sixteen 9th graders will travel to Nahalal with the Federation's Director of Community Engagement, Rabbi Ilana Baden, and the Ann Arbor Community-to-Community Chairperson, Eva Solomon.

"We are thrilled that there is so much enthusiasm for this program," commented Baden. "Eva and I cannot wait to introduce this new delegation to Moshav Nahalal. We know that it will be a transformative experience for all involved." ■

The Israeli delegation saying thanks from Nahalal

Youth happenings at the JCC

Ethan Krasnow, special to the WJN

JCC introduces new JCC Scouts of Ann Arbor

Beginning in February, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will begin a new program, the JCC Scouts Ann Arbor for children in grades K–8. Participants will have the opportunity to complete activities such as basic first aid, camping safety, cooking, fire building, hiking, and much more while earning badges as they complete levels of participation.

The program was created to foster a love for the outdoors, teach survival skills, develop character and leadership, develop a sense of personal achievement, teaching tikkun olam or repairing the world, and more. Those who participate will pay $50 for a February–May membership, with the ability to come twice a week—Thursdays from 4:45-6 p.m. and Sundays from 1:15–2:30 p.m. at the JCC. In addition, a membership will include a shirt, hat, and neckerchief to be worn to each meeting.

Though the JCC Scouts Ann Arbor will not meet regularly during the summer months, Scouts will have opportunities to earn merits toward badges at the JCC's summer day camp, Camp Raanana. They will also have the opportunity to earn points towards badges throughout the year at home, synagogues, etc.

February Break School's Days Out at the JCC

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor will offer a School's Days Out for the February break. During the week of February 17-21, programs will take place from 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Late care from 4–6 p.m. is available at an additional cost if not enrolled in the JCC's Kids' Club after school program. The charge for each day is $40 for JCC members and $65 for non-members. This includes a field trip or outreach program, and a morning snack.

Field days will include visiting Calder Dairy, Bonaventure Skating Center, Cobblestone Farm, Imagination Station, and the Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

For more information or to register for JCC youth programs, contact Ethan Krasnow at ethankrasnow@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

Keshet Ann Arbor

OPEN HOUSE

KESHET is a Modern Hebrew program bringing together students from every local high school and grade level. The program is a unique partnership between the Ann Arbor Public Schools and local Jewish community.

Keshet meets twice a week in a fun, engaging and casual environment. The curriculum has three academic levels, from complete beginners to advanced, each taught by a University of Michigan lecturer. In addition to language, students also learn about **Israeli culture** through movies and other special events.

Keshet is **recognized by the Ann Arbor public schools,** and can be taken for credit to satisfy foreign language requirements.

Come to the Open House and learn more about the program!

WHO: Current or incoming High School Students and their parents

WHEN: Monday, March 3, 2014 7:00 PM

WHERE: Beth Israel Congregation - 2010 Washtenaw Avenue

RSVP: avram.kluger@gmail.com or 734-680-6882

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Camp Gan Israel's 17th summer

Modechai Lightstone, special to the WJN

Camp Gan Israel Ann Arbor, (CGI-A2) Chabad's camp for Ann Arbor Jewish kids, will be returning for its 17th summer.

Set to begin June 23, CGI A2, part of the largest network of Jewish day camps around the world, focuses on creating a warm, safe, environment for kids to learn and explore through tried experiential techniques.

Torah Timer group at the water park

According to Shternie Zwiebel director of Camp Gan Israel, "Our motto is 'A summer of fun.... a lifetime of memories,' and together with our dedicated staff and counselors we work to create the best camp in the Ann Arbor area."

New programs in store for this summer include the Sabra Pioneer Traveling Program. This program, open exclusively for kids entering 7th and 8th grades, will take campers on exciting trips to Chicago, Cleveland and Toronto.

Younger campers will be able to enjoy iCamp, a program allowing campers to create their own custom learning environments. Together with their parents, campers can choose between such subjects as dance, karate, music, magic, art, and sports, and learn from professionals in their chosen field. Camp will also have regular swimming and bi-weekly field trips.

Older campers entering the 5th and 6th grades, will be able to participate in the Pioneer program. Pioneers will have weekly themed activities such as cooking, music and photography 'mini-camps.' In addition to these programs, campers will have swimming three days a week and a bi-weekly field trip.

Some 100 campers attended CGI A2 last summer and camp officials expect that with the addition of the Sabra Pioneer traveling camp, even more area kids will be joining. To meet the demand, camp has already increased its staff for the coming year.

"The counselors are at the heart of creating the CGI camp experience," Zweibel says. "We're so excited to be bringing such a talented and caring group to Ann Arbor this year as well."

Parents have been equally excited about the CGI A2 experience. As one mother put it, "Sylvie could not have had a better summer and can't wait until next year. Neither can we. Thank you for running such an amazing camp." ■

For pricing and additional information, including scholarships, go to: www.mycampganisrael.com.

Enrollment for JCC Early Childhood Center starts March 3

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

Don't miss out on the opportunity to enroll (or re-enroll) your child at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor's Early Childhood Center (ECC).

The ECC is a learning community of children and adults who explore ideas, overcome obstacles, and inquire together. A small teacher/child ratio allows for planning of meaningful experiences that build on children's individual strengths. The goal is to nurture a sense of justice, compassion, and caring for the welfare of others in all children. The warm, nurturing, and highly trained teachers support children as they develop skills that will help them develop into lifetime learners. The ECC is proud to hold itself to the highest professional standards as a school accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children,

Applications for childcare and pre-school programs for the 2013–2014 school year will be accepted beginning Monday, March 3, for families currently enrolled in the ECC. Applications from member families of JCC affiliate organizations (Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, Hebrew Day School, Jewish Cultural Society, etc.) will be accepted beginning Monday, March 10. Enrollment for the general public begins Monday, March 17.

The ECC offers programs for children ages 2 months to 5 years old. The center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Children can be registered for full- or part-time schedules. Children three years and older participate in a pre-school program designed to prepare children for kindergarten. Both full- and half-day pre-

ECC Kanga Tashlich Walk 2013

school programs are available for children 3 to 5 years old. All ECC programs integrate Judaics into their daily, weekly, and seasonal routines. Teachers connect Jewish content and values to the overall curriculum through use of gardening, song, dance, storytelling, Tzedakah projects, and more.

For more information about any of the ECC's programs, visit the ECC online at www.jccannarbor.org. Applications will be available online, by mail, or in person as of February 27. For questions, personal tours, or even more material about the ECC, contact Peretz Hirshbein at 971-0990 or ecc@jccfed.org.

JCC CAMPS

JUNE 23 - AUGUST 15, 2014

CAMP RAANANA

Camp Keshet

The premier Jewish Day Camps in Ann Arbor

The way camp should be!

Camp Raanana Early Bird discount – $20 off per week of Camp Raanana or $10 off per week for Camp Keshet for everyone who registers by March 16 and pays in full by June 2.

Two additional weeks of KidZone-Summer Fun Days for grades K-8 based at the JCC! June 16-20, 2014 and August 18-22, 2014.

KidZone

NO Camp Raanana Fee Increase from 2013!

CAMP OPEN HOUSE • March 16th from 12:30-1:30 p.m. • at the JCC

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF GREATER ANN ARBOR

(734) 971-0990
www.jccannarbor.org

Is Stephen Harper-led Canada Israel's new best friend?

By Sean Savage/JNS.org

With the Middle East in turmoil, Europe moving backwards, and the United States fatigued from years of war and recession, Canada has emerged as a staunch supporter of Israel. At a time when Israel is routinely singled out for condemnation, Canada has been at the forefront of defending Israel and criticizing its enemies.

This outspokenness comes amid the growing economic and political clout of Canada, a country that is traditionally accustomed to keeping a low profile internationally. While Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper embarked on his first trip to Israel from January 19–22, the Jewish state rolled out the red carpet for him. Has Israel found a new best friend?

"[Harper] really understands the importance and moral justification for a Jewish state, he gets it," Rabbi Philip Scheim of Toronto's Beth David Synagogue, who is traveling as part of Harper's delegation to Israel, told JNS.org.

Since World War II, Canada's foreign policy has centered on multilateralism and participation in international organizations. But Harper has moved beyond those traditional corridors and has focused on a stronger and more independent Canadian foreign policy.

Part of this new independent foreign policy has been supporting Israel, an often-unpopular position around the world. Immediately upon taking office in 2006, Harper bucked world opinion and supported Israel in its war against the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah. This outward support has continued in every military engagement Israel has been involved in since.

Canada has also supported Israel in the U.N., joining only a handful of small nations and the U.S. in voting against upgrading the Palestinians to nonmember observer state status in 2012, and repeatedly voting against resolutions condemning Israel.

CREDIT: FLASH90.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) shakes hands with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper during a welcoming ceremony for Harper at Netanyahu's office in Jerusalem on Jan.19, 2014. Harper took a four-day trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

On Iran, Harper has aligned more closely with Israel's position than with the positions of some its allies in Europe and the U.S. In 2012, Harper cut diplomatic ties with Iran and expelled Iranian diplomats from Ottawa, Canada's capital. More recently, Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird said he was "deeply skeptical" of the interim nuclear deal with Iran and reaffirmed that Canada would maintain its sanctions again Iran.

These positions have come with some costs for Canada. In a shocking outcome in 2010, Canada lost a bid for a seat on the U.N. Security Council. Some speculated that Harper's strong pro-Israel stance might have played a role in straining relations with the U.N.'s large Islamic bloc.

"This is really something we have not seen before, a prime minister of Canada taking a really strong position at a great political cost. He knows that this could really hurt him in some areas, but he doesn't care, because this is what he really believes," Scheim told JNS.org.

Harper, an Evangelical Christian who belongs to the Colorado-based Christian and Missionary Alliance church, has also come under fire from critics who claim that his faith influences his foreign policy.

"My sense is that there may be an element of religious connection [to Israel]. But that is certainly not all of it; I think it also has to do with his sense of the world, his sense of justice and understanding of history, especially Jewish history," Scheim said.

But Canada, like its American and European allies, still has a vocal anti-Israel movement within the country, particularly on college campuses and in certain media outlets.

In 2005, Toronto's York University became the first school to host "Israel Apartheid Week" (IAW) and its student union, the largest in Canada, voted last year to divest from Israel. IAW events have also spread to other Canadian universities.

Harper's recent selection of Vivian Bercovici, who is Jewish and has been a vocal supporter of Israel, to be Canada's next ambassador to Israel has also drawn some criticism in the Canadian media. In an interview with Baird, CBC anchor Evan Solomon questioned whether it is appropriate to appoint a pro-Israel Jew to be the Ambassador to Israel.

"Vivian Bercovici is Jewish, so there are going to be some questions. Why not appoint someone who doesn't even have the perception of any kind of bias (in favor of Israel)?" Solomon asked.

Yet despite the criticism of Harper's pro-Israel stance, Shimon Fogel, CEO of Canada's Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, credits Harper for making support for Israel a mainstream position in Canada.

"Adopting those positions on Israel is what a mainstream party should look like in the eyes of most of the Canadian electorate today," Fogel JNS.org.

This support has shown itself in the positions of the leaders of Canada's two main

continued on next page

Women of power: Female IDF soldiers shatter contemporary infantry lines

By Maayan Jaffe/JNS.org

From the inception of the Jewish state to the present, Israel's military has been anything but a male-dominated institution. On May 26, 1948, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion established the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Less than three months later, the Knesset instituted mandatory conscription for all women without children. Today 57 percent of all officers in the Israeli army are women, according to the IDF.

The IDF recently highlighted the stories of a select group of those women on its blog, in a list titled "8 Female Soldiers Who Shattered Barriers in 2013." The article, which featured women in a variety of military roles and from diverse backgrounds, said that in recent years women have "taken increasingly high-level positions in the IDF."

The female soldiers included in the list "challenge stereotypes," wrote the IDF. Among those listed are two soldiers originally from the U.S.: Cpl. Dylan Ostrin, from Houston, who made aliyah at the age of 7, and Sgt. Sarit Petersen, from Maryland, who is currently in the process of making aliyah.

Petersen, who recently completed her IDF term, served as a shooting instructor in the Nahal Infantry Brigade. Her job was to teach reconnaissance brigade soldiers (Special Forces) to use their weapons. Speaking from her parents' home in Baltimore, Peterson waxed modest about being chosen for the IDF blog entry. "There are awesome people doing awesome things in the army all the time," she said with a laugh.

A 2010 graduate of the Yeshiva of Greater Washington, Petersen told JNS.org that she was "surprised" at her selection, though she was one of the first to hold her position in the IDF. Petersen trained soldiers slated for elite army units. They had already completed at least eight months of basic training, and often had several additional months of more intense training. She said that she and her colleagues would "sit for hours and hours" planning and analyzing how they were going to take these men from "regular soldiers to Special Forces—to even better."

"We would spend hours and hours on an exercise list. We would look at their old ones, see what they had done and figure out how to make it harder and faster, how they could run more. Then we would go to the shooting range and make them do all of these [exercises] we had set up for them and they would do it," she said. "We would do it first, to test it out, and then they would do it."

Is Petersen good with a gun?

"Yeah," she said. "I am a pretty good shot."

Petersen said she shot her first gun as a 14-year-old on a vacation with a friend in Nevada; they shot cans in the desert.

"I thought, 'Wow! I am really good at this and it is really fun,'" she reminisced, noting that she could never have dreamed then of her time in the IDF.

Other female soldiers on the list have vastly different roles. Take Pvt. Or Meidan.

continued on next page

PHOTO CREDIT: ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES

Pictured is Sarit Petersen, of Maryland, who is on the IDF's recent list of "8 Female Soldiers Who Shattered Barriers in 2013"

Israel's new best friend, continued from previous page

opposition parties, the centrist Liberal Party and the center-left New Democratic Party (NDP).

"Yes, the Liberal Party will have Israel's back—but not because it's in our political interests to do so at home, but because it is the right thing to do on the world stage," Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau recently told a crowd of 500 people at Beth Tikvah Synagogue in Toronto, the Jewish Tribune of Toronto reported.

Meanwhile, NDP leader Thomas Mulcair has strong Jewish ties. Mulcair's wife is a French Sephardic Jew whose parents are Holocaust survivors, and his children are being raised Jewish. Mulcair has described himself as an "ardent support of Israel in all instances."

Adding to their credentials, both Trudeau and Mulcair have also visited Israel before.

"The opposition parties are very close to the position of the Conservative government [on Israel]. But it has to be recognized that this government [Harper's Conservative party] established that benchmark," Fogel told JNS.org.

Amid the political implications, one aspect of Harper's trip that may be overlooked is the economic component. Like Israel, Canada has successfully weathered the global economic crisis over the past five years and has invested heavily in high-tech areas.

"One of the things we have done over the last decade has tried to broaden the base of support for Israel. We have spent a lot of time to helping foster interest and engagement of the private sector in seeing Israel as a high-tech destination. There has been a ton of partnerships and investments from the private sector," Fogel said.

Joining Harper on the trip to Israel are 30 of Canada's top business executives, including billionaire real estate and media moguls David Asper and Albert Reichmann as well as Air Canada CEO Calin Rovinescu.

Upon touching down in Israel for the first time, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu greeted Harper and praised him as "a great friend of Israel and the Jewish people."

"I think he has taken a moral stand worthy of admiration, and I welcome him on behalf of the Israeli government and on behalf of all the citizens of Israel," Netanyahu said, the Jerusalem Post reported.

At a time when few countries around the world come to Israel's defense, Rabbi Scheim believes the trip is an opportunity for Israel to finally express its appreciation for Harper.

"He is very well-known in Israel, you go to the U.S., nobody knows who the prime minister of Canada is, but in Israel, the whole country knows him and I am very proud identify with him," Scheim told JNS.org. ■

Women of Power, continued from previous page

She moved to a southern kibbutz in Israel from Uganda. In November 2012, her town was a regular target of Hamas rockets. Today, she is an Iron Dome missile defense system operator. Also listed is First Sgt. Monaliza Abdo, an Arab-Israeli combat soldier. While most Arab-Israelis don't even take part in army service, Abdo rose through the ranks to become a commander, teaching soldiers how to combat terrorism and other threats. In December, she completed three years of service—one more than the required number for Israeli women.

Lt. Amit Danon, a former Israeli national champion in rhythmic gymnastics, became a combat officer in the mixed-gender Caracal Battalion. She is also on the IDF's list.

"She was one of the first women to become an officer in a combat unit," Risa Kelemer, a commander who also serves in Carcal, told JNS.org. Kelemer, who is from Baltimore, said Caracal is the only co-ed combat unit in the world.

"Boys and girls play the same roles," she said, noting that despite this she has felt little tension from the men she works with. "I encounter more difficulty when I am in civilian life. I meet someone who says, 'You are a combat soldier? Girls aren't combat soldiers!'"

Kelemer does not pretend to be as strong as her male counterparts, though she said she is able to hold her own. When it comes to an operation, however, she said each person has a role. Kelemer, for example, is a trained grenade launcher. Another female comrade is a sharp shooter. Another is a medic.

"Combat is not just running with 50 pounds on your back," said Kelemer, "though we also do that."

Katja Edelman, originally from Kansas and now a student at Columbia University, recently completed her service as a combat infantry soldier in the IDF's canine unit. In that role, she worked with dogs in the field and trained them back at the base. She told JNS.org that the IDF "has a lot to be proud of regarding integration of women. … I felt like I had amazing opportunities in my service and was able to do many of the same things men do. … It was always important to me to demonstrate professionalism and capability to set the right precedent for a continued and hopefully expanded role for women in the IDF."

Edelman said she did feel pressure to prove herself in the IDF, and she went to extra lengths not to show signs of fatigue "even if the boys were openly exhausted."

"I feel that most women in male-dominated workplaces can relate," she said.

Kelemer's mother, Amian Frost-Kelemer, said she is "incredibly impressed" with and proud of her daughter. But she is also "petrified."

"She believes she can do whatever the guys can do. She is really fast. But the weight they have to carry is not great for a woman's body," Frost-Kelemer told JNS.org. "Mentally, there is no issue. Physically, the reality is that as strong as she is, it is about heart—she is there for the heart." ■

Maayan Jaffe is a freelance writer in Overland Park, Kansas.

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Best Reads

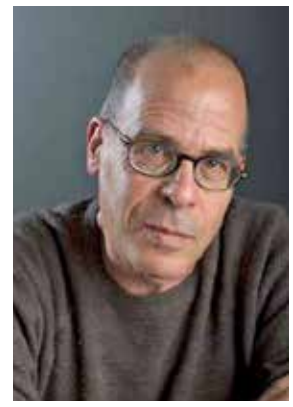
Israeli novel richly evocative, deeply satisfying

Rachel Urist, staff writer

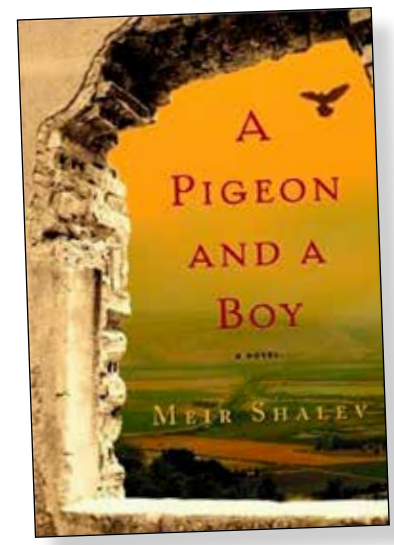
A Pigeon and a Boy, published in 2007, is a feat of storytelling. The Israeli writer, Meir Shalev, evokes visions, people, changing historical periods, and the many landscapes of Israel. At the center of the story is Yair. As his name suggests, he illuminates the events that unfold.

Shalev sets his story in the world of homing pigeons. His characters know these birds, raise them, care for them, and allow their own lives be steered by the birds' trajectories. Shifting from past to present and back, Shalev creates two dovetailing stories. When suddenly the two stories become one, the reader is jolted into recognition of a larger truth, not only of the story's details, but of the world we inhabit. Just as the birds teach us about love and fidelity, so does the book, which addresses life and loss. These homing pigeons pair for life, and once released – from battleground, from research labs, from any far-flung place – they will not rest until they have returned home. Hence their name. The birds' caretakers are as devoted to their charges as the doves are to their mates.

When the newborn state of Israel fought for its life, these birds were used by the fledgling Israeli militia to send messages urging food, recruits, and reinforcements. The novel begins during those pioneer days. Then it jumps a generation. Two generations of dove-keepers strengthen the bond between story and reader. In caring for the birds, these handlers learn about responsibility, purpose and, above all, about themselves. These bird people are a breed apart, and when love calls, they use the birds to tender coded love messages as well as military information.



Meir Shalev



The novel's language is richly evocative. There are biblical, liturgical, visual and literary references that echo through the book. Early on, a pigeon is described as "bluish grey with scarlet legs and two dark stripes like those of a prayer shawl adorning the wings."

Elsewhere, a character thinks back "on those who have died and who, with the passing of days, will die again with the deaths of those who remembered them." I was taken with this idea. Then I learned that it comes from the Talmud. Jewish references light up the story, and while they are arresting in English, they surely pack a greater punch in the original Hebrew. In plays on words, the author sends secret messages the reader. A pair of twins, for instance, both of whom bear names beginning with "Y", are known as "Double Y." It helps to know that in Hebrew, double "y" signifies the name of God. The Hebrew word for pigeon is the same as that for dove: yonah. The name invites peace.

When Shalev paints domestic scenes, the tenderness is palpable. When a husband phones his wife, she says:

It's you, lovey? I thought it was that pest of an engineer from the Public Works Department.

It's me. A different pest.

She laughed. When Tirzah laughs, I'm happy.

This book is both sobering and uplifting. Much of the novel is set in wartime Israel, giving the story even greater urgency than pure fiction might allow. Shalev's prose is often transporting. The overlapping stories of two generations of lovers is sometimes chilling, always moving.

The novel is a record of life's vicissitudes, encased in a curious, colorful, and sometimes magical constellation of characters. Childhood friendships blossom into love. Lovers paths merge and diverge. The marks of their journeys leave indelible guideposts that Shalev helps us to explore. As a metaphor for the people and spirit of Israel, the story is disturbing and deeply satisfying. ■

On Another Note

Alexander Fedoriouk to perform with Yiddishe Cup at the Ark, February 8

San Slomovits, staff writer

Cleveland's gift to the world of Klezmer music, Yiddishe Cup, is returning to the Ark Coffeehouse on Saturday, February 8. This will be Yiddishe Cup's tenth annual appearance at the club since 2005, and the popular group has developed a loyal and growing group of local fans. Yiddishe Cup is bringing a very special guest to this year's concert. Alexander Fedoriouk will join the band on keyboards and cimbalom, or *tsimble*, as the instrument is known in Yiddish and Klezmer circles. The cimbalom is related to the American hammered dulcimer, but is a larger instrument, capable of more complex scales and chords, and is, along with the standup bass, half of the rhythm section of most Eastern European gypsy bands. It is a member of an ancient family of similar stringed instruments, but it was developed to its present form in Hungary in the late nineteenth century and has a long and honored tradition in Klezmer music. In the hands of a premier zimbalist like Fedoriouk, it can play ethereal melodic lines, support other soloing instruments with dense harmonic underpinnings, as well as propel the music forward percussively.

Fedoriouk, an acknowledged master of the instrument, was born in Kolomyia, Ukraine, which, says Yiddishe Cup's founder, clarinetist Bert Stratton, was a hot spot for the mixing of Klezmer and Slavic music before WWII. Fedoriouk began playing the cimbalom at age seven and grew up in the Carpathian Mountains, playing at weddings in the mountain villages of Ukraine and Moldavia. He received his bachelor's degree in music from the Kiev State Conservatory and moved to the United States in the 1990s. After living in New York City for some years, he relocated to Cleveland where he earned a master's degree in ethnomusicology from Cleveland State University. And throughout the entire time, he played music in a wildly eclectic variety of styles, with a huge range of musicians, and in many musical settings. He has performed with John Cale of the Velvet Underground in Carnegie Hall; he has played for movie soundtracks in both the Ukraine and in the United States; and he has appeared as a featured soloist with many symphony orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony and Orchestra Nashville. His discography is long and similarly varied. He has recorded with jazz flautist, Herbie Mann, and with the Eastern European music masters, Harmonia, as well as with Gypsy, Klezmer and other ethnic music bands in Europe and in the United States.

Alexander Fedoriouk

Although Fedoriouk modestly says that he became interested in Klezmer music after he was invited to perform and record on a few Klezmer CDs while living in New York City in the 1990s, in fact, he has played with many of the finest Klezmer musicians of the past few decades. That roster includes violinist Alicia Svigals (a founding member of the Klezmatics, who both served as an instructor of Klezmer styles to Itzhak Perlman and appeared with him in the PBS documentary, *In the Fiddler's House*); and clarinet and mandolin virtuoso, Andy Statman. The long list of other well known Klezmer musicians with whom Fedoriouk played and recorded with includes, among others, Sy Kushner, Steven Greenman, Alan Bern, Martin Confurius, Ken Maltz, Adrianne Greenbaum, Jim Guttmann, Yale Strom, Elizabeth Schwartz, and Lori Cahan-Simon. Stratton says, "I rehearsed recently with him and played an obscure *chusidl—Fun Der Chuppah* (From the *Wedding Canopy*). He joined right in. I said, 'How do you know that?' He was taken aback. He said, 'I was playing this 20 years ago in New York with Michael Alpert.' [Alpert was in Kapelye and Brave Old World.]" When Fedoriouk mentioned to Stratton that he'd played with Statman in New York, Stratton replied, "I couldn't even carry Statman's clarinet case. He's my idol."

Perhaps due to his work with all these Klezmer giants, or because of his ethnomusicology studies, Fedoriouk is a knowledgeable scholar on the history of Klezmer and other Eastern European folk music. It is a long subject, he says. "There are many overlaps between the two distinguished styles. The music of Klezmer is very influenced by the folk music of Eastern Europe. In particular Romanian, Ukrainian, Moldavian, Hungarian, Slovak, Polish, etc. The instrumentation is very similar. The cimbalom instrument that I play has been known in Klezmer music as the tsimbl for a long time. Many dance forms like the Doina and the Hora were adapted to Klezmer from Eastern European folk dances," explained Fedoriouk.

Fedoriouk met Stratton and the other members of Yiddishe Cup at a world music festival in Cleveland a number of years ago and this will be his first appearance with the band in Ann Arbor. Stratton sums it up when he says about Fedoriouk, "Long story, short, he's world-class." ■

FEBRUARY EVENTS

ARIEL QUARTET
ALISA WEILERSTEIN, CELLO

Wednesday, February 5, 7:30 pm
Rackham Auditorium

PROGRAM

Wolf	Italian Serenade (1887)
Boccherini	Quintet in E Major, Op. 11, No. 5 (1771)
Schubert	Quintet in C Major, D. 956, Op. posth. 163 (1828)

SUPPORTED BY: Jerry and Glaria Abrams
MEDIA PARTNERS: WGTE 91.3 FM and Detroit Jewish News

KREMERATA BALTICA

Gidon Kremer, violin and conductor
Alexei Mochalov, bass
Thursday, February 6, 7:30 pm
Hill Auditorium

POST-PERFORMANCE Q&A

PROGRAM

Pärt	Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten (1977)
Weinberg	Concertino for Violin and Strings, Op. 42 (1948)
Britten	Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge, Op. 10 (1937)
Weinberg	Symphony No. 10 in a minor, Op. 98 (1968)
Shostakovich	Anti-formalist Gallery (ca. 1957)

SUPPORTED BY: Maxine and Stuart Frankel and the Renegade Ventures Fund and Penny and Ken Fischer
MEDIA PARTNER: WGTE 91.3 FM

ONE NIGHT IN BAMAKO
BASSEKOU KOUYATÉ AND NGONI BA
FATOUMATA DIAWARA

Friday, February 7, 8 pm
Michigan Theater

Two of Mali's greatest talents unite for one incredible concert. Bassekou Kouyaté is a visionary master of the *ngoni*, an ancestor of the banjo and Fatoumata Diawara is "the most beguiling talent to hit the world music scene in some time." *(Telegraph)* This joyous concert celebrates traditional African music-making with a twist of contemporary folk, jazz, and blues.

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ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

Friday February 14, 8 pm
Rackham Auditorium

PROGRAM

Haydn	Quartet in D Major, Op. 71, No. 2 (1793)
Martinů	Quartet No.5, H. 268 (1938)
Dvořák	Quartet No. 11 in C Major, Op. 61 (1881)

MEDIA PARTNERS: WRCJ 90.9 FM and WGTE 91.3 FM

COMPAGNIE KÄFIG
CORRERIA AGWA

CCN de Créteil et du Val-de-Marne
Mourad Merzouki, artistic director and choreographer
Friday–Saturday, February 14–15, 8 pm
Power Center

POST-PERFORMANCE Q&A (FRIDAY)

This all-male dance company of incredibly talented Brazilans perform two heart-stopping works that showcase an irresistible cocktail of athletic samba, hip-hop, and capoeira dance styles, highlighting astonishing acrobatic skills and dazzling virtuosity.

SPONSORED BY: ART WORKS. | National Endowment for the Arts arts.gov

MEDIA PARTNERS: Metro Times and Between the Lines

JOSHUA BELL, VIOLIN

Sam Haywood, piano
Sunday, February 16, 4 pm
Hill Auditorium

UMS Distinguished Artist Award recipient Joshua Bell returns for a Valentine's weekend recital featuring works by Tartini, Beethoven, Stravinsky, and others.

SPONSORED BY: SESI

SUPPORTED BY: Dennis and Ellie Serras
MEDIA PARTNERS: WRCJ 90.9 FM and WGTE 91.3 FM

THÉÂTRE DES BOUFFES DU NORD
THE SUIT
DIRECTED BY PETER BROOK

Written by Can Themba,
Mothobi Mutoatse, and Barney Simon
Wednesday–Thursday, February 19–20, 7:30 pm
Friday–Saturday, February 21–22, 8 pm
Power Center

POST-PERFORMANCE Q&A (WEDNESDAY)

Directed by theater legend Peter Brook, *The Suit* "brims with a gentle effervescence and musicality that you associated with entertainments usually described, a bit dismissively, as charming," says the *New York Times*. "Yet even as it draws you in like the gregarious host of an intimate party, this story of adultery in apartheid South Africa is quietly preparing to break your heart."

SPONSORED BY: ART WORKS. | National Endowment for the Arts arts.gov

MEDIA PARTNERS: WDTET 101.9 FM, Michigan Radio 91.7 FM, and Between the Lines

ST. PETERSBURG PHILHARMONIC

Yuri Temirkanov, conductor
Denis Kozhukhin, piano
Saturday, February 22, 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM

Rimsky-Korsakov	Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh (excerpts)(1905)
Kancheli	...al ninte (2000)
Tchaikovsky	Piano Concerto No. 1 in b-flat minor, Op. 23 (1874-75)

A Prelude Dinner precedes the performance. Reservations : 734.764.8489

PRESENTED WITH SUPPORT FROM: Medical Community Endowment Fund
MEDIA PARTNERS: WTGE 91.3 FM and Detroit Jewish News

Inspired by the Girl Scouts

Mary Bilyeu, staff writer

Is there any food as beloved as Girl Scout cookies? We all buy many, many boxes of them, since they're only available for a short time each year. We all hoard extras to freeze, under the pretense of saving them, then subsequently devise ruses to raid the stash. And we all know the joke about Thin Mints: they come packaged in two sleeves per box, thus offering two individual servings.

So, it's difficult to imagine that there could be any treat better than Girl Scout cookies ... but, believe it or not, there is! At the annual Girl Scout Cookie Bake-Off Benefit, held this past September, a variety of culinary geniuses used the cookies as a central ingredient in creating beautiful pies, truffles, and cakes to help raise funds for the Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor Region's Outreach Program to benefit girls who would otherwise not have the opportunity to join a troop.

Jan Barker, Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan CEO, noted in the Bake-Off program booklet: "From juvenile hall to schools with high free and reduced rate lunch eligibility, to homeless shelters and community centers in low income neighborhoods, (we work) diligently to make sure all girls have the opportunity to be a Girl Scout." The organization's "outreach brings the benefits of Girl Scouting to the girls who need us the most."

Participating chefs at the Bake-Off were:

- Bad Fairy and Wonder Woman of Bona Sera Cafe
- Nancy Biehn of Sweet Gem Confections
- Jordan Conn of La Dolce Vita
- Beth Crawford of Carson's American Bistro
- Cheryl Hanewich of The Moveable Feast Catering
- Janice Leach of Why Not Pie?
- David Young of Paesano's Restaurant and Wine Bar

The lucky judges tasting the confections included Susan Ayer, editor of the *Washtenaw Jewish News,* while I served as the emcee for the event and was thus able to enjoy all of the luscious treats without any responsibility for picking favorites among them. The extraordinary offerings included a homage to Ho-Ho's (recipe below), Chocolate Truffle Cookie Cups, and even Caramel Apple Pie. Cheryl Hanewich's multi-layer torte featuring pumpkin, caramel, spun sugar, and Samoas won both the People's Choice Award and 1st Place Judges' Choice.

Pumpkin Torte

Chocolate Samoa Torte

Samoa Cream Pie

In addition to providing attendees with an opportunity to taste the desserts, the Bake-Off offered live and silent auctions and a raffle, enabling the Girl Scouts to raise more than $20,000 in one evening to support such programs as Uniquely ME to counter peer pressure; Living On My Honor, which celebrates diversity; BrainSTEM, encouraging girls to pursue science; Juvenile Justice, to foster self-esteem and self-improvement among middle and high school girls with truancy issues; and Girl Scouts Beyond Bars, which enables girls whose mothers are incarcerated at the Huron Valley Women's Prison in Milan to support each other and to participate in specially coordinated visits with their mothers each month.

The Bake-Off also gave several scouts a chance to sell cookies to those in attendance, in advance of the booth sales which begin this month and continue into March.

"Cookie sales are not just about raising money for the troop and the activities they have planned," according to Valerie Galler, a member of Beth Israel Congregation who was a Girl Scout herself for 6 years and is now a leader for Seniors (grades 9-10) and Ambassadors (grades 11-12); she is part of the volunteer Ann Arbor Product Sales Team. "The girls are learning valuable life skills by following the steps of the product sales. Cookie sales teach the girls how to make their long term plans and then make those plans happen. They plan their activities. They figure out how much money they need to raise for their plans. They develop a strategy to meet that goal. They evaluate the strategy as the different phases of the sale commence, updating as needed. Sometimes they have to revisit the planned activities and adjust those. Then they are able to execute what they planned. Many women have said that looking back, they learned how to get where they wanted to be from the cookie sales."

Peretz Hirshbein, director of the Early Childhood Center at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and a former parent/leader of Brownie and Junior troops, remembers that "Cookie sales were a lot of fun, and helped the troop pay for a lot of great activities. One year, cookie sales made it possible for the troop to travel to Mackinac Island!"

Valerie believes that "Girl Scouts shares many values with Judaism. If you take a look at the Girl Scout Law (below), you will see that everything in it is a 'Jewish value.' By helping girls to have the confidence to live their lives with these guidelines, we reinforce these shared values." Peretz echoes this by noting that the statements in the Law "speak very loudly to Jewish values of repairing the world, treating others as we would be treated ourselves, thinking about the community, doing service, and learning from all."

So be sure to support your local troops this month when you find sales booths; the cookies are OU, after all—what more incentive do you need? Just think of buying Girl Scout cookies as a mitzvah! ■

The Girl Scout Pledge

I will do my best to be:
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong,
and responsible for what I say and do,
and to:
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place,
and to be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Chocolate Thin Mint Cake

2nd Place Judges' Choice at the Girl Scout Cookie Bake-Off Benefit (and Susan Ayer's favorite).

From Chefs Bad Fairy and Wonder Woman of Bona Sera Cafe

Chocolate Thin Mint Cake Layers

- 3 ounces fine quality semi-sweet chocolate
- 1 1/2 cups hot brewed coffee
- 3 cups sugar
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 package Thin Mint cookies, ground to equal 1 cup
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1-1/4 teaspoons salt
- 3 large eggs
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups well-shaken buttermilk
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 300° and grease two 10" round cake pans. Line bottoms of pans with wax paper and grease paper.

Finely chop chocolate and, in a bowl, combine with hot coffee. Let mixture stand, stirring occasionally, until chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth.

Into a large bowl, sift together sugar, flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Add ground Thin Mint cookies.

In another large bowl with an electric mixer, beat eggs until thickened slightly and lemon-colored (about 3 minutes with a standing mixer or 5 minutes with a hand-held mixer). Slowly add oil, buttermilk, vanilla, and melted chocolate mixture to eggs, beating until combined well. Add sugar mixture and beat on medium speed until just combined well.

Divide batter between cake pans and bake in middle of oven until a tester inserted in center comes out clean, 60–70 minutes.

Cool layers completely in pans on racks. Run a thin knife around edges of pans and invert layers onto racks. Carefully remove wax paper. Cake layers may be made 1 day ahead and kept, wrapped well in plastic wrap, at room temperature.

Marshmallow Filling

- 2 large egg whites
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup light corn syrup
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 1/2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon peppermint extract

Combine frosting ingredients with a pinch of salt in a metal bowl set over a saucepan of simmering water and beat with a hand-held mixer at high speed until frosting is thick and fluffy, 6–7 minutes. Remove bowl from heat and continue to beat until slightly cooled. Use frosting the day it is made.

Ganache

- 1/2 pound fine quality semi-sweet chocolate
- 1/2 cup heavy cream

Heat cream; add to chocolate and whisk until smooth.

Place one cake layer onto a serving plate. Spread with marshmallow filling, then top with remaining cake layer. Cover cake with ganache. Chill cake until the ganache is set.

February 2014

Saturday 1

Blood Drive: TBE Brotherhood. Social Hall. 8:45 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10 a.m.

Kol Halev at Senior Residences: TBE. Off-site. 11 a.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 2

World Wide Wrap: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Meeting: BIC. Social Action Committee. 10:30a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 3

Symposium: Gender and Sexuality in Law and Religion: UM Frankel Center. UM Rackham Assembly Hall, 915 E. Washington Street. For more information, see http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/events. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Torah Trop Classes: TBE. Noon.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Open House: BIC Keshet. 6 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 4

Tuesdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. Join Diane Dahl for Callanetics featuring muscle firming through stretching exercises synchronized to music. $12/members; $14 non-members. 9:30 a.m. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session or 3 sessions per month for $10; 11 a.m. Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person; Noon. Games and Activities including mahjong and quilting; 1 p.m. For information, contact rachaelhoffenblum@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. Meet at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367. 1:30 p.m.

WCC Emeritus Class with Dr. Fried: JCC. Development of the holidays during the first and second temple periods. No cost for those 65 years or older. Sign up through Washtenaw Community College or on the first day of class. 10 a.m.–Noon. *Also February 11, 18, 25 and March 4, 11, 18 and 25.*

Hebrew 104: TBE. 5 p.m.

Musical Meditations: TBE. 5:30 p.m.

Kol Halev Rehearsal: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 5

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30–7:30 p.m.

EMU Evening Learning Session with Marty Schictman: JCC and EMU. Out of an often awkward relationship between Jews as a minority group and the majority culture, American Jews have fashioned a literature that looks back at the Torah, back to the Eastern European ghettos, and also forward to define a role in the intellectual life of the twenty-first century. In this four-session course of study, participants will read a small sampling of poetry. To RSVP or for class fee information, phone 971-0990 or email karenfreedland@jccfed.org. 7–8:15 p.m. *Also February 12 and 19.*

Thursday 6

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4 p.m.

Thursdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. Join Diane Dahl for Callanetics featuring muscle firming through stretching exercises synchronized to music. $12/members; $14 non-members. 9:30 a.m. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session or 3 sessions per month for $10; 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey; 11 a.m. Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person; Noon. Afternoon Presentations; 1 p.m. For information, contact rachaelhoffenblum@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Monthly Birthday Celebration: JCC Adult Program. Recognizing JCC members with February birthdays. Come for cake and ice cream at 12:30 p.m. and stay for afternoon programming at 1 p.m.

Presentation: JCC Adult Programs. Jill and Nate Lada from Green Things Farm will discuss the history of their farm, as well as how a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) operates. Green Things Farm, though relatively new, has already proven popular at local farmers markets. 1 p.m.

Israeli Dancing: JCC. Easy and oldies from 7:30–8:30 p.m. Intermediate and requests from 8:30–10 p.m. $5/per class. Students and children free. Learn the latest Israeli dances, line dances, mixers and more. Families welcome. *Thursdays.*

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 7

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal discussion. Participants are welcome to bring lunch. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Yiddish Group: JCC. Drop-in class. 1:30–3 p.m.

Friday Night Lights: BIC. Shabbat Service followed by dinner. 6 p.m.

First Friday Shabbat: Jewish Cultural Society. Held in all of the lounges at the JCC. The cost of dinner is $10/person or $25/family of 4. Please RSVP online at www.jewishculturalsociety.org/holiday-a-shabbat-observances.html. 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6:00 p.m. Tot dinner at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service and Family Service Honoring 2nd Grade Class at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 8

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50 a.m.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 6th Grade Shabbat Morning at 9:30 a.m. Henry Gershowitz Memorial Shabbat at 9:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat at 11:15 a.m. Mini Minyan for K-2nd Grade at 11:15 a.m.

Shabbat Morning Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. Participative community service integrates traditional liturgy with music, chanting and contemporary English readings. Includes Torah service and discussion. Led by Rabbi Michal Woll. Meets at the JCC. For more information, call 845-2361 or email Rabbi Michal at ravmichal@aarecon.org. 10 a.m.– noon.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10 a.m.

Kids' Night Out: JCC. Spend the night with crafts, games, a movie, pizza and dessert. $10/JCC members; $8/siblings. $15/non-members; $13/siblings. For information, email ethankrasnow @jccfed.org. 6:30–10 p.m.

Falafel and Film: JCC and Jewish Federation of Ann Arbor. Enjoy the company of film lovers for a hearty falafel dinner and Israeli film, *The Gatekeepers,* a 2012 documentary by director Dror Moreh telling the story of the Israeli internal security service. Discussion led by David Shtulman. $10/JCC members; $15/non-members. For information, contact karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 9

Planning Session: BIC Men's Club. 9:30 a.m.

Yom Ivrit Hebrew Olympics: BIC. 9:30 p.m.

Limudim: TBE Brotherhood. 10 a.m.–Noon.

Gan Katan: BIC. 10:30 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Bowling: BIC Kadima. Noon.

Winter Hike: Jewish Hikers of Michigan. Meet at Kensington Metropark for a leisurely exploration of nature in winter. Join birder, educator and naturalist Juliet Berger for a walk through the beautiful, wildlife-rich trails. Bring binoculars if you have them and dress for winter. Carpools will leave from the Ann Arbor JCC and the JCC in West Bloomfield at 11 a.m. Donuts and cocoa will be provided by the JCC of Ann Arbor. $5 per person/vehicle. Reserve a spot by phoning 971-0990 and specify whether you need a ride. For information, contact Eli Avny at 883-9522 or karenfreedland@jccfed.org or email jewishhikers@gmail.com. Noon.

All-Ensemble Concert: TBE. In the TBE Sanctuary from 4–6 p.m.

Member Appreciation Party: JCC. Join a fun-filled afternoon of Tie/Tye/Thai. Begins with music of Kol Kavod, Hillel's a capella group, followed by Thai dinner. Bring something to tye-die and wear a tie that has special meaning to you, but dress casually. No charge for members or for those who become members at the door. Members are encouraged to bring a friend. $5 for non-members. RSVP to 971-0990. For information, contact noreendeyoung@jccfed.org. 4:30 p.m.

Monday 10

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email jessica@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Torah Trop Class: TBE. Noon.

"Bruno Schulz's Sanatorium: Reflections on the Uneasy Afterlife of National Literatures:" UM Frankel Center. Presented by Karen Underhill of the University of Illinois at Chicago. 1080 S. University, Room 1636, UM School of Social Work Building. For more information, see http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/events. Noon.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 11

Tuesdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. Join Diane Dahl for Callanetics featuring muscle firming through stretching exercises synchronized to music. $12/members; $14 non-members. 9:30 a.m. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session or 3 sessions per month for $10; 11 a.m. Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person; Noon. Games and Activities including mahjong and quilting; 1 p.m. For information, contact rachaelhoffenblum@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

To Be a Jew in the Free World: Jewish Identity Through the Lens of Modern History: Chabad. New six-week course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute. Register at www.myjli.com or phone Chabad House at 995-3276, ext. 2. 9:30 am at Chabad and at 7:30 PM at the JCC.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 5 p.m.

Musical Meditations: TBE. 5:30–6:15 p.m.

The Art of Scribbling: JCC. Students in this class will be guided in how to push doodles and scribbles into real expressions and imaginative drawings. For those 16 years of age and above. $30/ JCC members; $35/non-members. For information, contact karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 7–8:30 p.m. Also February 18 and 25.

Kol Halev Rehearsal: TBE. 7:30–9 p.m.

Lunch and Laugh Prime Time Edition: BIC. 8 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 12

Lunch and Laugh: BIC. Noon.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30–7:30 p.m.

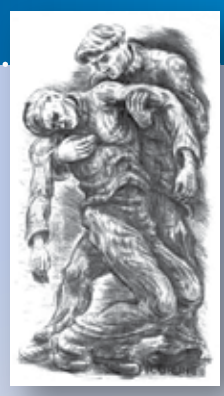
Women's Torah Study with Cantor Rose: TBE. For information, contact cantorannie@gmail.com. 7 p.m.

Thursday 13

Thursdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. Join Diane Dahl for Callanetics featuring muscle firming through stretching exercises synchronized to music. $12/members; $14 non-members. 9:30 a.m. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session or 3 sessions per month for $10; 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey; 11 a.m. Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person; Noon. Afternoon Presentations; 1 p.m. For information, contact rachaelhoffenblum@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Blood Pressure Screening: JCC Adult Program. Nurses from CARE Response visit the JCC on second Thursday each month to provide free blood pressure screenings and information on staying healthy. No RSVP required. 12:30 p.m.

German Jews and Gender Roundtable: UM Frankel Center. Presented by Frankel Fellows Christine Achinger, Benjamin Baader and Verena Kasper-Marienberg, and Helmut Puff, University of Michigan. 202 S. Thayer Street, Room 2022 Thayer. For more information, see http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/events. 12:30-2:30 p.m.



ON VIEW January 5 – May 4, 2014

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals

After 1933, the Nazis persecuted homosexuals as part of their crusade to racially and culturally purify Germany. This ranged from dissolution of homosexual organizations to internment in concentration camps. Gay men, in particular, were subject to harassment, arrest, incarceration, and even castration. In Nazi eyes, gay men were weak and unfit to be soldiers, or contribute to the struggle for Aryan dominance.

ABOVE: **Solidarity** *by Richard Grune, lithograph, 1947 (image: Schwules Museum, Berlin)*

TOP RIGHT: *1907 political cartoon depicting sex researcher* **Magnus Hirschfeld**, *'Hero of the Day,' drumming up support for abolition of Paragraph 175 of German penal code criminalizing homosexuality (image: US Holocaust Memorial Museum Photo Archives)*

BOTTOM RIGHT: *Cover of September 1931 issue of* **The Island**, *a magazine for homosexuals (image: US Holocaust Memorial Museum)*

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University of Michigan-Dearborn, Office for Student Engagement
(LGBTQ and Inclusion Initiative)
Voice/Vision Holocaust Survivor Oral History Archive

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2/2: THE PLEASURE GARDEN (SILENT)
2/4: MURDER!
2/9: THE 39 STEPS
2/11: THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH (1934 & 1956)
2/16: THE LODGER (SILENT)
2/18: THE LADY VANISHES
2/23: REBECCA
2/25: FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

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Calendar

Presentation: JCC Adult Programs. TBD. 1 p.m.

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4 p.m.

Israeli Dancing: JCC. Easy and oldies from 7:30–8:30 p.m. Intermediate and requests from 8:30–10 p.m. $5/per class. Students and children free. Learn the latest Israeli dances, line dances, mixers and more. Families welcome. *Thursdays.*

Talmud–Jewish Civil War: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 14

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal discussion. Participants are welcome to bring lunch. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Yiddish Group: JCC. Drop-in class. 1:30–3 p.m. *Ongoing.*

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m. Tot Dinner at 1:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service with Birthday and Anniversary Celebration at 7:30 p.m. at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 15

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. 9 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10 a.m.

The Art of Milli Levin Reception: JCC. Son Dan Levin and daughter-in-law Aviva Dorfman will show Milli Levin's art in the JCC's Newman Lounge and Amster Gallery. Born in Detroit in 1917, Milli Levin died in 2010. 7–9 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 16

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Torah on Tap Brunch: TBE TNT. Twenties and Thirties group brunch held off-site. 11 a.m.–Noon.

Monday 17

School's Day Out: JCC. For HDS and AAPS students in grades K-5 when school is not in session. 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m. with Aftercare available from 4–6 p.m. for an additional cost. JCC member rate per child is $40/per day ($4 off per sibling). Non-member rate is $65/day. Includes afternoon snack. Aftercare is $10 per child unless already enrolled in 'Kids Club.' For information, contact ethankrasnow@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. *February 17 through 21.*

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email jessica@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 18

School's Day Out: JCC. *See February 17.*

Tuesdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. Join Diane Dahl for Callanetics featuring muscle firming through stretching exercises synchronized to music. $12/members; $14 non-members. 9:30 a.m. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session or 3 sessions per month for $10; 11 a.m. Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person; Noon. Games and Activities including mahjong and quilting; 1 p.m. For information, contact rachaelhoffenblum@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

To Be a Jew in the Free World: Jewish Identity Through the Lens of Modern History: Chabad. *See February 11.*

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. Held at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367. 1:30 p.m.

"The Ambiguity of Virtue: Gertrude van Tijn and the Fate of the Dutch Jews during the Holocaust:" UM Frankel Center. Presented by Bernard Wasserstein of the University of Chicago. 202 S. Thayer St., Room 2022 Thayer. For more information, see http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/events. 4 p.m.

Musical Meditations: TBE. 5:30–6:15 p.m.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 5–6:15 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Evening session of book club will focus on *Devotion: A Memoir (P.S.)* by Dani Shapiro. Contact Cantor Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com for details. 7:30–8:30 p.m.

The Art of Scribbling: JCC. 7–8:30 p.m. *See February 11.*

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 19

School's Day Out: JCC. *See February 17.*

Lunch and Laugh: BIC. Noon.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 5:30 p.m.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Thursday 20

School's Day Out: JCC. *See February 17.*

Thursdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. Join Diane Dahl for Callanetics featuring muscle firming through stretching exercises synchronized to music. $12/members; $14 non-members. 9:30 a.m. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session or 3 sessions per month for $10; 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey; 11 a.m. Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person; Noon. Afternoon Presentations; 1 p.m. For information, contact rachaelhoffenblum@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Lunchtime session of book club will focus on *Devotion: A Memoir (P.S.)* by Dani Shapiro. Contact Cantor Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com for details. Noon–1 p.m.

Presentation: JCC Adult Programs. TBD. 1 p.m.

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4 p.m.

Israeli Dancing: JCC. Easy and oldies from 7:30–8:30 p.m. Intermediate and requests from 8:30–10 p.m. $5/per class. Students and children free. Learn the latest Israeli dances, line dances, mixers and more. Families welcome. *Thursdays.*

Talmud–Jewish Civil War: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 21

School's Day Out: JCC. *See February 17.*

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal discussion. Participants are welcome to bring lunch. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Yiddish Group: JCC. Drop-in class. 1:30–3 p.m. *Ongoing.*

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6:00 p.m. Tot dinner at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 22

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50 a.m.

Chapel Service: TBE. 10 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. 11:15 a.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Sunday 23

"Just Who Are the Israelites: The Archaeology of Ethnogenesis:" UM Frankel Center. Presented by J.P. Dessel, Louis and Helen Padnos Visiting Professorship in Judaic Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Temple Emanuel, 1715 Fulton Street East, Grand Rapids. For more information, see http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/event. 10 a.m.

Shmita Study Group: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. Group delves into the sources and contemporary relevance of Sabbatical/Shmita with lively dialog on the personal, social, communal and environmental transformations possible in the coming year. Meets on 4th Sunday of each month at the JCC from January to June. For information, phone 445-1910 or email Marcy Epstein at dr_marcy@hotmail.com. JCC, 10–11:30 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

Sunday Brunch Concert Series: JCC. Featuring violinist Dr. Maria Bessmeltseva and pianist Michele Cooker. Reservations required at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or by phone at 971-0990. Brunch is at 11 a.m. followed by concert at 11:30 a.m.

Communal Conversation on Education: UM Jewish Communal Leadership Program. Parents, teachers, and other community members are invited to join a discussion with national leaders on Jewish and Hebrew education. UM School of Social Work, 1080 South University Avenue. RSVP at http://tinyurl.com/jclp2014. Moderated by Deborah Ball, Dean of UM School of Education. For information, email ansiegel@umich.edu. Appetizers at 4 p.m. Panel at 5 p.m.

Evenings in the Library: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Kol Halev Rehearsal: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Monday 24

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email jessica@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Torah Trop Classes: TBE. Noon.

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Women's Torah Study with Cantor Rose: TBE. For information, contact cantorannie@gmail.com. 7 p.m.

Sit n' Knit: TBE Sisterhood. 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Tuesday 25

Tuesdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. Join Diane Dahl for Callanetics featuring muscle firming through stretching exercises synchronized to music. $12/members; $14 non-members. 9:30 a.m. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session or 3 sessions per month for $10; 11 a.m. Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person; Noon. Games and Activities including mahjong and quilting; 1 p.m. For information, contact rachaelhoffenblum@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

To Be a Jew in the Free World: Jewish Identity Through the Lens of Modern History: Chabad. *See February 11.*

Hebrew 104: TBE. 5–6 p.m.

Musical Meditations: TBE. 5:30–6:15 p.m.

Kol Halev Rehearsal: TBE. 6–7:30 p.m.

Yiddish Movie Night: Laughter through Tears: UM Frankel Center. 202 S. Thayer Street, Room 2022 Thayer. For more information, see http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/events. 6 p.m.

The Art of Scribbling: JCC. 7–8:30 p.m. *See February 11.*

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 26

Lunch and Laugh: BIC. Noon

Shalom Gever: TBE. 4:30–8:30 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: BIC. 9 p.m.

Thursday 27

Thursdays at the JCC: JCC Adult Programs. Join Diane Dahl for Callanetics featuring muscle firming through stretching exercises synchronized to music. $12/members; $14 non-members. 9:30 a.m. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session or 3 sessions per month for $10; 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey; 11 a.m. Homemade Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person; Noon. Afternoon Presentations; 1 p.m. For information, contact rachaelhoffenblum@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

"Masculinizing American Jewish Philanthropy:" UM Frankel Center. Presented by Beth Wenger, Frankel Fellow. 202 S. Thayer St., Room 2022 Thayer. For more information, see http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/events. 12:15 p.m.

The Love, Lure, and Lore of the Clothesline: JCC. Anne Lawrence, clothesline historian and hobbyist, has been collecting clothesline memorabilia for years. She will discuss her unique hobby, talking about the history, nostalgia and stories surrounding our laundry habits. For information, contact Rachael Hoffenblum at 971-0990 or by email at rachaelhoffenblum@jccfed.org. 1 p.m.

Back Door Food Pantry: TBE. 4 p.m.

Israeli Dancing: JCC. Easy and oldies from 7:30–8:30 p.m. Intermediate and requests from 8:30–10 p.m. $5/per class. Students and children free. Learn the latest Israeli dances, line dances, mixers and more. Families welcome. *Thursdays.*

Mahj: TBE. Held off-site. 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil War: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 28

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Yiddish Group: JCC. Drop-in class. 1:30–3 p.m. *Ongoing.*

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6:00 p.m. Tot dinner at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Sisterhood Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m.

Fourth Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. Musical Kabbalat Shabbat services are held at the JCC and are led by Rabbi Michal Woll. Services followed by a vegetarian potluck dinner. Pizza nosh for children before services at 6 p.m. and childcare provided during services from 6:15 – 7:30 p.m. Reservations requested for pizza and childcare. Call 445-1910 or email Jennifer Cohen via www.aarecon.org/contact-us. 6–10 p.m.

Sephardic Friday Night Dinner and Story Circle: BIC Women's League and Men's Club. 7 p.m.

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. 6:15 p.m. at the JCC the fourth Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Pizza nosh for the kids at 6:00 p.m. Childcare provided during the service. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 975-6527, email mamacohen@comcast.net, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Congregation. Learners' Service held first or second Saturday each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Discussion-based format with changing topics, focusing on historical, geographical, and political traditions of different parts of traditional service each month. Regular morning service generally held on the second or third Saturday each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Traditionally based, with music plus a lengthy Torah discussion. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Friday night services at Shabbat candle lighting time. Saturday morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown. Call 995-3276 for Home Hospitality and Meals for Shabbat and Jewish Holidays.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study with Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson and lay leaders at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Frequently listed phone numbers and addresses of organizations:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

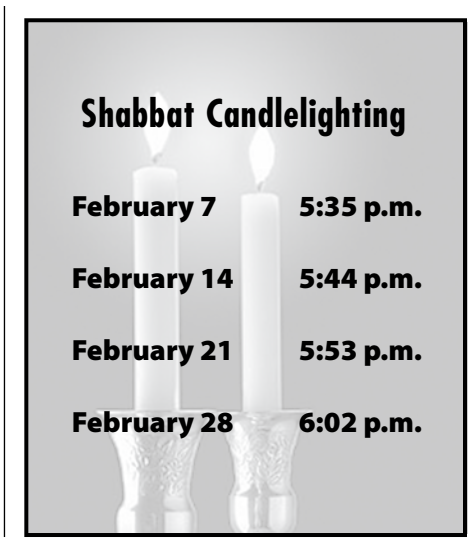
Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500



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February 2014 Events

February 3, 9 am - 5:30 pm

Frankel Institute Symposium

Gender and Sexuality in Law and Religion

Rackham Assembly Hall

915 East Washington Street

February 10, Noon

Karen Underhill, University of Illinois

Bruno Schultz's Sanatorium:

Reflections on the Uneasy Afterlife of

National Literatures

1080 South University Street, Room 1636

February 13, 1:15 - 3:00 pm

Frankel Institute Round Table

Christine Achinger, Benjamin Baader, and

Verena Kasper-Marienberg, Frankel Fellows

German Jews & Gender

202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022

February 18, 4 pm

Bernard Wasserstein, University of Chicago

The Ambiguity of Virtue:

Gertrude van Tijn and the Fate of the

Dutch Jews during the Holocaust

202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022

February 27, 12:15 pm

Beth Wenger, Frankel Fellow

Masculinizing American Jewish Philanthropy

202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022

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Vitals

Mazal Tov

Kathi and Rick Cohen on the birth of their grandson, October 16.
Pyper and Bernard Alpern on the birth of their daughter, November 11.
Ahava Kopald on her bat mitzvah, February 1.
Mira and Doron Sussman on the birth of their son, Judah Bahir, grandson of Ron and Lonnie Sussman.
Ron and Lonnie Sussman on the birth of their granddaughter, Nava Marie, daughter of Eitan and Joanna Sussman.
Fran and Irwin Martin on the marriage of their son, Jeremy Sina, to Angelique Velez.

Condolences

Lila Rosentraub on the death of her brother, Mark Zuckerbrod, July 29.
Victor Lieberman on the death of his wife, Sharon Lieberman, also mother of Jessica Lieberman, November 18.
Phyllis Werbel on the death of her husband, Leslie Werbel, also father of Cheryl Good, Deborah Lucaric, and Aaron Werbel, November 22.
Richard Gilman on the death of his mother, Jean Gilman, November 22.
Hank Mosberg on the death of his wife, Deborah Weintrob, November 27.
Rebecca Leitman Veidlinger on the death of her father, Bruce Leitman, December 7.
The family of Israel Woronoff on his death, December 10.
Debbie Merion on the death of her father, Morton Eisenberg, December 10.
Julio Borquez on the death of his mother, Patricia Borquez, December 11.
The family of Clara Seymour on her death, December 14.
Rabbi Kim Blumenthal on the death of her grandmother, Annette Blumenthal, December 18.
Ira Horowitz on the death of his grandmother, Sylvia Bailus, December 23.
Stephen Lapedis on the death of his mother, Bernice Lapedis, December 23.
Sarajane Winkelman on the death of her mother-in-law, Beryl Winkelman, December 31.
Lucille Cassel on the death of her husband, Ezra Cassell.

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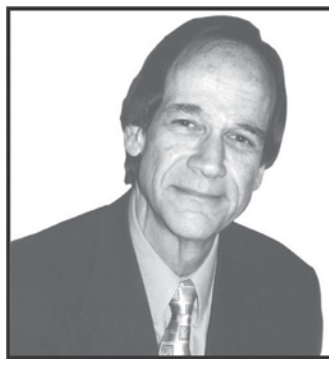
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